

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5b
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
February 23, 2022

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Zone 6 treaty commercial fisheries
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent report is the 2022 Spring Chinook, Summer, Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (February 2, 2022) available at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> and <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The recent five-day average river temperature at the John Day Dam tailrace is 38.8 degrees which is 1.0 degrees warmer than the recent five-year average for this time period.
- The recent five-day average outflow at the John Day Dam is approximately 160 Kcfs, which is not unusual for this time of year although higher than last week.

STOCK STATUS

White Sturgeon -- Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam)

- Sturgeon Stock Assessment information has been presented in Winter Fact Sheet 1, 2 and 3.

Steelhead and Salmon

- Through February 20, a total of 1,665 including 706 unclipped winter steelhead have been counted at Bonneville Dam (42.4% unclipped). The total count and the unclipped count are the fourth highest to date in the last 10 years. There are no dam counts available this time of year for The Dalles, John Day, or McNary Dams. TAC does not forecast winter steelhead at Bonneville Dam although the river mouth forecast for winter steelhead is 13,400.
- Chinook counts at Bonneville Dam in January include one fish passing downstream and one upstream. These fish may have actually been fall chinook.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Zone 6 Sturgeon

- The treaty commercial guidelines are shown in the harvest table below.
- There is no harvest guideline for the treaty subsistence catch of sturgeon, but these catches are accounted for and used in population assessments. Subsistence harvest typically occurs in association with fisheries targeting other species and is generally low.

Steelhead and Salmon

- Steelhead caught upstream of The Dalles Dam from November 1-June 30 are counted as part of the A/B-Index summer steelhead return. There are no specific harvest limits for steelhead in winter season fisheries, but the steelhead catch is low averaging 51 fish annually in The Dalles and John Day Pools combined since 2008 with no recorded catch during the winter gillnet fishery in the past nine years, although there has been some harvest in spring fisheries. Because of generally low steelhead harvest in the winter gillnet fishery, no specific management actions regarding steelhead are expected.
- Steelhead caught in the Bonneville Pool from November 1 through March 31 are counted as winter steelhead. There is no specific harvest limit for winter steelhead, but harvest is generally low. Because harvest is generally low, no specific management actions regarding steelhead are expected to be needed.
- Chinook are not expected to be present during the winter gillnet fishery.

2022 TREATY INDIAN WINTER FISHERIES

- A setline fishery occurs each January in all three Zone 6 Pools under permanent regulations through January 31. This fishery generally has low effort and catch. The setline catches were below average in the Bonneville and John Day Pools, and near average in The Dalles Pool.. A gillnet fishery was set in The Dalles Pool from February 1-5, February 10 through 12, and February 16 through 18. A gillnet fishery is ongoing in the John Day Pool from February 1 through February 26. Preliminary catch estimates through Monday are shown in the table below. These include both ticketed landings and direct to public sales. There may be some landings in the last few days that have not been recorded yet.

Reservoir	January Setline	Winter Gillnet	Total	Guideline	<i>Remaining</i>
Bonneville	12	0	12	675	663
The Dalles	96	343	439	560	121
John Day	0	39	39	210	171
Total	108	382	490		

- Gillnet catch rates generally start out slow and increase over time as water temperature and effort increase. Catch rates in the commercial gillnet fishery have been less than modeled. While the catches typically increase as the season progresses, different years can follow different patterns. The water may still be cold enough to moderate catch rates.
- No steelhead have been caught in the winter gillnet fishery to date.

The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2022 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery – The Dalles Pool</i>	
Season:	6 AM Thursday February 24 to 6 PM Monday February 28 (3.5 days)
Area:	The Dalles Pool only
Gear:	Gillnets with no minimum mesh size restriction
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas include standard closed dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

<i>2022 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery – John Day Pool</i>	
Season:	Extend the ongoing fishery until 6 PM Monday February 28 (2 additional days for a total of 27.5 days)
Area:	The John Day Pool only
Gear:	Gillnets with no minimum mesh size restriction
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas include standard closed dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The John Day Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

<i>2022 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery – Bonneville Pool</i>	
Season:	6 AM Wednesday March 2 to 6 PM Friday March 4 (2.5 days)
Area:	The Bonneville Pool only
Gear:	Gillnets with no minimum mesh size restriction
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas include standard closed dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in The Bonneville Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- No action regarding the platform and hook and line fishery is needed at this time.
- At the end of the proposed fisheries, the expected sturgeon catch in the Dalles Pool fishery is 520 fish based on an average of the 2020 and 2021 average catches per day for the time period of the planned fishery scaled with this year’s catches to date. With 121 fish remaining, the fishery can catch 34.6 fish per day and stay within the catch limit. Last week, the catches were 67 fish for a 2.5 day fishery or 26.8 fish per day.

- The sturgeon catch in the John Day pool will likely be no more than 50 fish by the end of the extended fishery and will probably be less.
- The sturgeon catch in the Bonneville Pool is expected to total 590 at the end of the planned fishery based on recent average catch rates.
- The expected catch of steelhead in any pool is zero.
- Catch will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remain within management limits. The tribes expect to set additional fishing time after this period or may extend this period if appropriate. The tribes will take action to close fisheries early if harvest limits are projected to be met early.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The tribes do not request an additional Compact Hearing at this time but will notify the States when the next Compact is needed.