

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION  
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 8  
 Columbia River Compact  
 March 10, 2026**

<b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b>	Zone 6 treaty commercial setline 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 online. The most recent report relevant to this fishery is the 2026 Sturgeon/Smelt Report is 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 5-day average river temperature at The Dalles Dam tailrace has averaged 43.4 degrees which is approximately 2.5 degrees higher than the recent 5-year average for these dates.
- The recent 5-day average outflow at The Dalles Dam is approximately 173.7 kcfs compared to the 5-year average for these dates of 136.5 kcfs.

**STOCK STATUS**

***Zone 6 Sturgeon***

- The states and tribes work cooperatively to complete white sturgeon stock assessments, which rotate between the three Zone 6 reservoirs on an annual basis. The 2025 survey was conducted in the John Day Pool and was reviewed by the Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) on January 27.

***Steelhead and Salmon***

- No chinook or steelhead are handled in sturgeon setline fisheries and are therefore not discussed in this Fact Sheet.

**MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

***Zone 6 Sturgeon***

- The SMTF, which is a joint state and tribal body, met January 27 to review the stock assessment for the John Day Pool. Current guidelines are presented in the table below.

Pool	Current Zone 6 Harvest Guidelines		
	Overall Guideline	Treaty Commercial	Recreational Retention
Bonneville	2,500	1,250	1,250
The Dalles	1,100	825	275
John Day	315	210	105

- 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.

### 2026 TREATY WINTER FISHERIES

- 2026 Sturgeon Setline fisheries to date have included the following openings:

Bonneville	The Dalles	John Day
Jan 19-29	Jan 8-17	Jan 8-17
	Feb 2-7	
Feb 12-16	Feb 18-21	Feb 18-21
	Feb 26-Mar 4	Feb 26-Mar 4

- Catches through March 4 are shown in the table below. These include both ticketed landings and sales directly to the public. No salmonids were handled by setline gear.

Sturgeon Harvest to date.

Reservoir	Total Setline	Guideline	Remaining	% of Guideline Harvested
Bonneville	1,039	1,250	209	83.1%
The Dalles	416	825	409	50.4%
John Day	137	210	73	65.2%
Total	1,592	2,285		

- Catch rates for The Dalles pool have continued to be lower than 2025 although water temperature has been warm and effort has been good. Catch rates tend to increase over time throughout the season.
- Daily Catch Rates for The Dalles Pool openings to date are shown below. Daily catch rates have been stable instead of increasing as is normally the case.

Opening	Daily Catch Rates
Jan 8-17	11.6
Feb 2-7	22.4
Feb 18-21	18.0
Feb 26-Mar 3	18.5

- Catches and effort for steelhead harvest in platform fisheries are normally very low in the winter and will be reported when available.

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

<b><i>2026 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Setline Fishery (The Dalles Pools)</i></b>	
Season:	6:00 AM Wednesday March 11 through 6:00 PM Monday March 16 (5.5 days).
Area:	The Dalles Pool only
Gear:	Setlines
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas include standard closed areas applicable to setline gear.
Allowed Sales:	Sturgeon between 43 to 54 inches fork length may be sold or kept for subsistence. Fish landed during open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24 hours of completing the fish ticket. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- The tribes have used conservative estimates of likely average daily catches based on higher than average observed catch rates from recent years, which are higher than observed catch rates so far in 2026.
- The planned opening in The Dalles Pool presumes catch rates may increase to levels similar to observed in 2025. Catch rates would need to exceed 75 fish per day to exceed the limit and the tribes do not project that catch rates will be this high.
- The expected catch of steelhead in setline gear is zero.
- Catch will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remain within management limits. The tribes expect it may be possible to set additional fishing time after these openings close.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The tribes may request a hearing during the week of March 16, if sufficient fish remain on any harvest guideline.