

Zone 6 winter sturgeon fishery

A commercial sturgeon season is set through 12 p.m. on Monday, January 31. The open area is all of Zone 6.

Allowed gear is setlines with no more than 100 hooks per line of 9/0 or larger, and treble hooks are not allowed. Visible buoys must be attached and have the operators name and tribal identification. Fishers are encouraged to use circle hooks.

Allowed sales are sturgeon between 38 and 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool, and between 43 and 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools. They may also be kept for subsistence

use.

Sanctuaries are the standard dam areas applicable to setline gear. Fish landed during the open period may be sold after it closes. Questons contact Mark Manion, Harvest Manager, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs:

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Victory in tribal fisheries case

After over five years of investigations and court filings, a shellfish trafficking case brought by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has ended with a judge ruling the court didn't have jurisdiction to hear the case in the first place

It's the second big win for Tulalip fishermen Hazen Shopbell and Anthony Paul. In early 2021, the pair received a \$50,000 settlement for a countersuit over a false arrest claim stemming from the case.

Washing Fish and Wildlife began their investigation into Shopbell, Paul, and their company Puget Sound Seafood Distributors back in 2016. The lead investigator believed the pair were illegally trafficking shellfish, selling clams offreservation without proper documentation.

Days before the trial was set to begin, a flurry of court filings changed the case and the arguments of the state, including where the alleged crimes had taken place. At issue: Did the actions being

Sea lion removal at Bonneville

Seventy-six salmon-eating California sea lions have been lethally removed at prosecuted happen on tribal land, or inside Washington?

Last week, Judge Brian Stiles determined that the state's case did not belong in a Skagit County courtroom, telling lawyers as he dismissed the case.

"My decision is consistent with the heart of the Treaty of Rafeedie Consent Decree, preserving Treaty Rights that were gained many years ago. This court shouldn't be involved in those issues," Stiles ruled.

The question over who should have had jurisdiction has floated in the background for years. The Tulalip Tribe chairwoman essentially told Fish and Wildlife to back off in previous letters.

Following reports on this case, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Council wrote a similar letter, urging them to stop enforcement actions that violated law. The letter said it looked like Fish and Wildlife was "focusing its enforcement efforts against tribal members who typically do not have the resources to defend themselves."

It's a similar argument to what attorney Gabe Galanda

had said in court, arguing that rather than go after powerful tribes—Fish and Wildlife was instead going after individual tribe members.

Washington Fish and Wildlife has denied that it was going after tribal members, though questions were by defense attorneys about handwritten notes by Fish and Wildlife investigator Wendy Willette. Those notes included questions like, "Why is PSSD selling crab to other wholesalers while monopolizing the Tulalip crab fishery?" and "Why has PSSD taken all business from other established Tulalip buyers?"

Galanda specifically noted her use of terms "reverseracism," and a quote: "We're going to sell to our own kind now," in her notes.

The latest ruling doesn't mean things are over for Shopbell and Paul: It's still possible that the state could appeal the decision.

To date, Washington Fish and Wildlife has made it clear that despite the complaints of racism, and targeting of tribal members that they've simply followed the investigation where it led to.





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Covid boosters okayed for 12-15 year olds

Last week, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized booster doses of the Pfizer vaccine for 12- to 15-year-olds, and a shortened wait time between the initial series and boosters of the Pfizer vaccine.

Based on the FDA recommendation, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control the CDC—then adopted the new authorizations, providing tribes and states guidance for implementation.

The FDA-CDC action amended the authorization of emergency use/ of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine guidance in three ways:

First: Expansion of booster doses to children 12 through 15 years of age. Booster doses were only available to people 16 years of age and older.

Second: Shortening the time between completion of the primary vaccine series and a booster dose from six months to five months. And third: Allowing for a third primary series dose for certain immuno-compromised children ages 5 through 11.

Several steps happened last week before the tribes and states began implementation of the new guidance:

First the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices reviewed the FDA's evaluations and made its official recommendations to the CDC director.

The CDC director then recommended moving forward on the guidelines, allowing the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup to review the data, issuing a recommendation for vaccine administration in Oregon, Washington, Nevada and California.

The tribes and the Oregon Health Authority then issued updated guidance for the administration of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine.



Bonneville dam over the past five years.

The federal government adopted the lethal removal policy after realizing some years ago that the non-lethal hazing method was ineffective.

Tribes and states have implemented the lethal removal policy.

The sea lions are not native to this body of water, and the sea lions have been consuming up to 13,000 salmon each spring, according to fisheries studies. Empowering People of Diverse Abilities

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