

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
 JOINT STAFF REPORT
 FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8
 September 8, 2011**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial salmon gillnet
--------------------------------	---

STOCK STATUS and MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- The stock status and management guidelines were reported in Fact Sheet 1a.
- Through September 7, 153,192 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. This includes 122,672 bright Chinook and 30,521 tules (of which 3,725 are “stubby” adult sized jack aged tules). Additionally, 296,069 A and B index steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam along with 48,499 adult coho.
- TAC met on September 6 and reviewed harvest and dam counts to date. TAC did not think that the Chinook runs have reached 50% complete and did not update the run sizes. TAC currently thinks the overall A and B steelhead run size is tracking towards 386,000 (slightly above forecast), but has not fully worked out the A and B run size split as the timing of B steelhead is later than A steelhead.

2011 Treaty Indian Fisheries

- Commercial sales of fish harvested in the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery are ongoing and do not require modification.
- Yakama tributary fisheries are also ongoing, which may include the Little White Salmon River (Drano Lake), and the White Salmon, and Klickitat, Rivers. These fisheries do not require Compact action.
- The third week of tribal commercial gillnet fishing concludes Saturday at 6:00 PM. There were 672 nets counted this week which was close to the predicted effort. The tribes do not have a catch estimate for this week’s fishery, but preliminary information gathered from commercial buyers suggests the total catches are strong.
- Preliminary harvest for early August and the first two weeks of gillnet fishing is shown in the table below. Further CWT analysis, may result in changes to the stock composition.

Fishery	Nets	Chinook				Steelhead			Coho
		Total Adult	URB	MCB	Tules	Total	Group A	Group B	
Platforms 8/1-21		80	74	0	6	2,240	2,031	209	30
gillnet 8/22-25	434	4,907	4,907	0	0	2,679	1,939	740	1,241
gillnet 8/29-9/2	507	12,444	8,149	1,388	2,907	2,873	2,161	712	862
Subtotal		17,431	13,130	1,388	2,913	7,793	6,131	1,661	2,133
gillnet 9/6-10	672	35,363	25,944	5,353	4,066	6,272	3,151	3,121	
Projection gillnet 9/12-16 Projection	-675	28,280	23,164	3,786	1,330	5,647	2,609	3,038	
Grand Total		81,074	62,238	10,527	8,309	19,712	11,891	7,820	

- The tribes utilize a fishery model based on historic catch rates to project harvest in the Zone 6 fishery. Modeled harvest using effort observed this week, results in expected strong catches, but within harvest limits.
- The tribes expect that on September 16, the tribal fishery will have reached an approximately 15.6% harvest rate on URB's (out of an allowed 30% harvest rate) and a 13.2% harvest rate on B steelhead (out of an allowed 20% harvest rate). This would leave additional impacts available for more fishing during the week of September 19.
- At these expected total catches, the tribal fishery would still be within its allowed harvest for URB run sizes as low as 207,000 and B steelhead run sizes as low as 39,100.
- The planned fisheries are well within the allowed harvest rate based on the pre-season forecast and are expected to be low enough to allow the tribes to adjust subsequent openings if the run sizes should be less than forecast.
- The tribes will maintain the 8 inch minimum mesh size restriction as well as the standard Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary for the proposed opening.
- The tribes will continue to monitor the tribal fishery and report catches and will make any needed changes to keep the fishery within its allowed impacts.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>2011 Treaty Indian Fall Season Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	6 AM Monday September 12 to 6 PM Friday September 16, 2011 (4.5 days)
Area:	Zones 6
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries apply. The standard Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary (1.5 miles downstream to 1 mile upstream of the hatchery ladder) will be in effect.
Gear:	Gill nets with a minimum mesh size of 8 inches.
Allowable Sales:	All salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes. Sales of fish caught during open gillnet periods are allowed after the end of the open period, as long as the fish were landed during the open period.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers.

Future Meetings

- The tribes will request a Compact on September 15 to consider fisheries for the week of September 19.