

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**STAFF REPORT**  
**FALL FACT SHEET NO. 10a**  
**September 15, 2011**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial salmon gillnet
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**Stock Status and Management Guidelines**

- The stock status and management guidelines were reported in Fact Sheet 1a.
- Through September 14, 262,251 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. This includes 212,223 bright Chinook and 50,028 tules. Additionally, 319,219 A and B index steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam along with 78,286 adult coho.
- TAC met on September 12 and reviewed harvest and dam counts to date. TAC downgraded the upriver Chinook run sizes. TAC now expects the river mouth run size to be 354,000 URBs, 92,600 MCBs and 73,000 Spring Creek Tules (BPH). TAC estimates the overall A and B steelhead run size is tracking towards 376,000 (slightly above forecast). The B steelhead run size is still tracking at close to the pre-season forecast.
- The adult Chinook passage at McNary Dam is 56,592 as of September 14. The management goal at McNary is 60,000.
- On September 14, Spring Creek Hatchery reported that 9,500 adult tules have entered the hatchery. The hatchery has surplused 1,500 early fish so that they can use fish from throughout the run for broodstock. The goal is 4,000 females and at least 3,000 males. Additionally, the hatchery is planting at least 600 tules upstream of Condit Dam.

**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 fourth week of tribal commercial gillnet fishing concludes Friday at 6:00 PM. There were 650 nets counted this week which is close to (but slightly less than) 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 remain strong.
- Preliminary harvest for early August and the first three weeks of gillnet fishing is shown in the following table. Further CWT analysis may result in changes to the stock composition. . There is some additional harvest of upper Columbia summer Chinook, stray lower river Chinook and jacks that is not shown in the table.

## 2011 Tribal Harvest

		Chinook				Steelhead			
Fishery	Nets	Total Adult	URB	MCB	BPH Tules	Total	Group A	Group B	Coho
Platforms 8/1-21		80	65	9	6	2,240	2,031	209	30
gillnet 8/22-25	434	4,793	3,028	396	1,369	2,679	1,939	740	1,464
gillnet 8/29-9/2	507	10,761	7,275	577	2,909	2,873	2,161	712	1,165
gillnet 9/6-10	672	35,968	23,535	2,440	9,993	2,879	2,356	523	8,562
Subtotal		51,602	33,903	3,422	14,277	10,672	8,487	2,184	11,221
gillnet 9/12-16 Projection	650	32,900	22,800	1,900	8,200	5,200	3,000	2,200	
gillnet 9/19-23 Projection	~600	22,200	16,800	2,300	3,100	10,000	7,400	2,600	
Grand Total		106,702	73,503	7,622	25,577	25,872	18,887	6,984	

- 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 by September 23, the tribal fishery will have reached an approximately 20.8% harvest rate on URB's (out of an allowed 30% harvest rate) and a 13.2% harvest rate on B steelhead – including some late season platform fishing (out of an allowed 20% harvest rate). This would leave additional impacts available for more fishing during the week of September 26.
- At these expected total catches, the tribal fishery would still be within its allowed harvest for URB run sizes as low as 245,000 and B steelhead run sizes as low as 35,000.
- 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 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 19 to 6 PM Friday September 23	(4.5 days)
Area	Zones 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries 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

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Thursday September 22 via teleconference. The tribes may consider additional fisheries for the week of September 26 at that time.