

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 13
September 29, 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.
- Current projected run sizes were reported in Fact Sheet 12.
- Recent Chinook counts remain somewhat above average levels. Coho counts are generally well above average and recent steelhead counts are below average for this time of year.
- Spring Creek Hatchery collected 16,508 adult tule Chinook and expects to finish spawning today. They intend to close the hatchery entrance ladder on Friday.

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 sixth week of tribal commercial gillnet fishing concludes today at 6:00 PM. There were 608 nets counted this week which is somewhat more than the predicted effort and very high effort for this late in September. The tribes do not have a catch estimate for this week's fishery, but preliminary information gathered from commercial buyers suggests the total catches and prices remain good.
- Preliminary harvest for early August and the five weeks of gillnet fishing is shown in the following table. Further CWT and sampling 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.
- 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 good catches for this time of year. The catches tend to decline each week this time of year. Total projected catches remain within harvest limits.
- The tribes expect that by October 6 (and including late fall platform fishing), the tribal fishery will have reached an approximately 26.1% harvest rate on URB's (out of an allowed 30% harvest rate) and a 19.2% harvest rate on B steelhead (out of an allowed 20% harvest rate).

2011 Tribal Harvest

Fishery	Nets	Chinook			Steelhead			Group B	Coho
		Total Adult	URB	MCB	Tules	Total	Group A		
Platforms 8/1-21		240	195	26	19	2,056	2,031	25	30
gillnet 8/22-25	434	4,854	3,188	427	1,239	2,470	1,939	531	1,464
gillnet 8/29-9/2	507	10,781	7,360	566	2,855	2,770	2,161	609	1,165
gillnet 9/6-10	672	38,577	20,422	5,871	12,284	3,055	2,541	514	8,562
gillnet 9/12-16	650	30,557	18,977	3,013	8,567	5,820	4,704	1,116	5,078
gillnet 9/19-23	658	25,068	17,186	2,729	5,153	4,555	2,071	2,484	5,395
Subtotal		110,077	67,328	12,632	30,117	20,726	13,376	5,279	21,694
gillnet 9/26-29 Projection	608	15,556	11,100	3,256	1,200	4,800	3,000	1,800	
gillnet 10/3-69 Projection	600	10,650	7,500	3,100	50	4,500	1,800	2,700	
Total through 10/3-6		136,283	85,928	18,988	31,367	30,026	18,176	9,779	
Late fall platforms (projected)		300	200	100	0	200	100	100	
Grand Total		136,583	86,128	19,088	31,367	28,155	18,276	9,879	
Allowed			99,570					10,220	
Remaining			13,442					341	

- At these expected total catches, the tribal fishery would still be within its allowed harvest for URB run sizes as low as 287,000 and B steelhead run sizes as low as 48,900.
- The planned fisheries are within the allowed harvest rate based on the updated Chinook and steelhead run sizes. The projected steelhead harvest contains some buffer to allow for uncertainty in this week's and next week's actual catches.
- The tribes will maintain the 8 inch minimum mesh size restriction and the standard Spring Creek sanctuary to a 150-foot diameter around the hatchery ladder 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 October 3 to 6 PM Thursday October 6.	(3.5 days)
Area	Zones 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries in effect. The Spring Creek hatchery sanctuary will be to a 150 foot diameter around the hatchery ladder.	
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 do not expect to propose a compact hearing next week. They have directed tribal staff to explore options for late fall sturgeon fishing as well as explore the feasibility of some late fall commercial coho fishing. The tribes intend to maintain the allowance for sale of platform and hook and line catches after the end of the commercial gillnet fishery, but generally end commercial sales at some point in the fall. The Yakama Nation may propose a commercial permit gillnet fishery in Drano Lake. If the tribes pursue any of these fishery changes, they will request a Compact Hearing at the appropriate time.