

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 6, 2012**

Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet
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**STOCK STATUS**

- The pre-season forecasts and management guidelines for fall Chinook and upriver summer steelhead were discussed in Fact Sheet 1a.
- Through September 5, there were 130,323 adult Fall Chinook counted at Bonneville Dam. These include 104,854 bright stock fish (URB and MCB groups) and 23,347 adult tules (primarily from Spring Creek Hatchery). The cumulative and daily Chinook counts to date are below average for this time of year. Through August 27, just fewer than 40% of the adult Chinook at Bonneville were adipose fin clipped. The large majority of unclipped fish are wild fish. TAC has not updated the Chinook run sizes but thinks the tules are tracking near forecast and the bright stock fish are tracking somewhat less than forecast. TAC will likely be able to make a point estimate update for Chinook sometime next week.
- From July 1 through September 5, 171,050 A and B index summer steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam. Of these 66,363 are unclipped fish (38.8%). Counts for both clipped and unclipped steelhead are below average for this time of year. Approximately 14-18% of hatchery steelhead are released without adipose fin clips as part of supplementation and restoration activities. TAC downgraded the A Index steelhead run size to 191,000. It is too early to update B steelhead, but data to-date indicates the B steelhead will be well below forecast. TAC recognized that although it is early in the run, the Group B steelhead return will likely be less than 35,000 and potentially less than 20,000. Next week the 50% date for “B” steelhead at Bonneville Dam will be attained and TAC will likely issue an updated “B” run size. If the run is less than 35,000, the allowed tribal harvest rate drops to 15% on the combined hatchery and wild B steelhead run. If the run is less than 20,000, the allowed tribal harvest rate drops to 13%.
- 16,672 adult coho have passed Bonneville. It is too early to update the coho run size.

**TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES**

- Treaty platform and hook and line fisheries have been ongoing since the beginning of the fall management period on August 1.
- Yakama Nation tributary fisheries are ongoing. Sales of fish caught from Yakama Nation tributary fisheries are allowed only for Yakama Nation enrolled members, and only when those areas are open under lawfully enacted Yakama Nation rules.
- The tribes are in the final week of the first three weeks of commercial gillnet fisheries.
- The following table outlines the harvest through the end of the second opening. Tule and bright stocks are separated based on skin color. Coded-wire tag data is not yet available for detailed stock composition.

Fishery	Dates	Nets	Total Adult Chinook Catch	Adult Bright Chinook	Tule Catch	Jack Catch	Total Steelhead catch	B Steelhead
Platform	Through 8/20		231	228	3	138	4,490	350
Gillnet #1	8/21-8/23	343	4,327	3,190	1,138	278	1,132	172
Gillnet #2	8/27-8/30	532	9,584	6,282	3,302	353	899	69
Subtotal			14,142	9,700	4,443	769	6,521	591

- Because of uncertainty surrounding the B steelhead run size, tribal staff has projected a range of catches for B steelhead in this week's fishery as well as in projections for next week.

Fishery	Dates	Nets	Total Adult Chinook Catch	Adult Bright Chinook	Tule Catch	Steelhead Run-size			
						A Steelhead	18,000 B Steelhead	21,000 B Steelhead	35,000 B Steelhead
Gillnet #3 Projection	9/4-9/8	749	27,800	21,200	6,600	1,900	475	600	800

- At the end of this week's fishery if the B steelhead run size is 18,000, tribal staff expect the tribal fishery will have caught a total of 1,066 B steelhead and be at a 5.9% harvest rate. If the run is 21,000, the tribes expect to have caught 1,191 B steelhead and be at a 5.7% harvest rate. If the run is 35,000, the tribes expect to have caught 1,391 B steelhead and be at a 4% harvest rate.
- For a 3.5 day fishery next week tribal staff projects a catch of 16,000 brights and 5,400 tules and 690 B steelhead assuming similar effort to this week. At the end of next week, the tribal B steelhead harvest rate would a maximum 9.8% based on a B steelhead run size of 18,000. Although CWT data is not available, based on the total bright catch estimate, the URB catch is likely well below the allowed limit at any reasonable run size.

<b>Recommendation: 2012 Fall Season Treaty Commercial Gillnet Fishery</b>	
Season:	6:00 AM Tuesday September 11 through 6:00 PM Friday September 14 (3.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Gill net only. 8 inch minimum mesh size.
Sanctuaries	Standard River mouth and dam sanctuaries for gillnet gear will be in place including the Standard Spring Creek Sanctuary
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sockeye may not be retained for any purpose. Sturgeon from the Bonneville Pool (38 to 54 inches fork length) and from The Dalles and John Day Pools (43 to 54 inches fork length) may be retained for subsistence purposes. Sales of fish caught during the open period may be sold after the period closes.

Additional Rules: **24-hour** Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers.

- Tribal staff will monitor fisheries and report catches on a weekly basis. Net counts will be done each week to determine fishing effort.

***Future Hearings***

- The Columbia River treaty tribes are recommending a hearing be scheduled via teleconference 1:00 p.m. Thursday September 13 to review treaty and non-treaty fisheries.