

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact
August 14, 2012

Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet

STOCK STATUS

- The pre-season forecasts and management guidelines for fall Chinook and upriver summer steelhead were discussed in Fact Sheet 1a.
- Through August 13, 7,963 adult fall Chinook and 244 coho have passed Bonneville Dam. All fall Chinook through August 15 are presumed to be bright stock fish. The cumulative and daily Chinook counts to date are near average for this time of year.
- Through August 13, 69,049 clipped and 50,333 unclipped A and B index summer steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam. Counts for both clipped and unclipped steelhead are below average for this time of year.

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

Commercial Sturgeon Set line

- A commercial sturgeon setline fishery occurred from July 30 through August 11. Approximately 4-5 fishers participated in this fishery. Landings are not available yet, but are expected to be small.

Platform and Hook and Line Fisheries

- Treaty platform and hook and line fisheries re-opened on July 30. Sockeye retention is not allowed. Catches are not available yet for August platform and hook and line fisheries.
- 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. Currently sockeye sales are prohibited in Yakama Nation fisheries.
- The tribes are proposing three weeks of commercial gillnet fisheries. The following table outlines the expected harvest in these openings.

Catch Projections for Treaty Fishery									
Week	Dates	Days	Nets	Total Adult				Total	
				Chinook	URB	MCB	BPH	Sthd	B Sthd
	8/1-8/20	20	Platform	245	200	25	20	2,240	50
35	8/21-8/23	2.5	400	18,600	9,000	1,700	7,900	3,700	425
36	8/27-8/30	3.5	525	26,900	17,900	4,500	4,500	5,300	750
37	9/4-9/8	4.5	675	48,800	29,800	9,500	9,500	5,900	1,500
	Total			94,545	56,900	15,725	21,920	17,140	2,725
	Allowed				105,900				10,560
	Remaining				49,000				7,835

- Based on the pre-season forecasts, tribal staff project that after the first three openings a total of 49,000 URB Chinook and 7,835 Group B steelhead would still remain for the tribal fishery. This should provide for additional fishing opportunity as well as for a buffer in case of run size changes.

<i>Recommendation: 2012 Fall Season Treaty Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Season:	6:00 AM Tuesday August 21 through 6:00 PM Thursday August 23	(2.5 days)
	6:00 AM Monday August 27 through 6:00 PM Thursday August 30	(3.5 days)
	6:00 AM Tuesday September 4 through 6:00 PM Saturday September 8	(4.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6	
Gear:	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. Sturgeon retention is not allowed on the Oregon shore between Covington Point and the Dalles Dam.	
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 Joint Staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled via teleconference for 1:00 p.m. Friday August 24 to review non-Indian fisheries.
- The Columbia River treaty tribes are recommending a hearing be scheduled via teleconference 2:00 p.m. Thursday September 6 to review treaty fisheries.