

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6a
Columbia River Compact
September 17, 2012

Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet
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STOCK STATUS
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 have completed the first four weeks of commercial gillnet fisheries.
- The following table outlines the harvest through the end of the fourth opening.

Preliminary Catch Estimate Through September 14										
Fishery Platform	Dates	Nets	Total Adult Chinook Catch	Adult URB	Adult MCB	Adult Tule	Jack Catch	Strays	Total Steelhead catch	B Steelhead
	8/1- 8/20		237	165	69	3	141	0	4,490	371
Gillnet #1	8/21-8/23	343	3,084	693	287	2,104	267	0	1,132	254
Gillnet #2	8/27-8/30	532	7,649	3,730	1,040	2,878	1,046	0	899	127
Gillnet #3	9/4-9/8	749	23,857	12,621	2,882	8,065	1,318	289	2,249	561
Gillnet #4	9/11-9/14	748	21,181	11,205	2,559	7,160	1,170	257	1,724	415
Subtotal			56,008	28,415	6,837	20,210	3,942	546	10,494	1,728

- The table below shows the catch expectation for a 3.5 day fishery this week.

Catch Projection for this week's fishery.									
Fishery	Dates	Nets	Total Adult Chinook Catch	Adult URB	Adult MCB	Adult Tule	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	
Gillnet #5 Projection	9/18-9/21	650	12,150	6,700	3,000	2,450	2,200	625	
3 night									

- Below is a table showing available impacts for this week's fishery based on different run size projection. At the current TAC forecast, there are sufficient available fish. If the run is less than the current forecast, the tribal fishery will be very close to the allowed impacts assuming a need for 100 B steelhead for late fall platform fisheries.

B Steelhead Run Size and Catches			
Run Size	19,000	20,000	22,000
Harvest Rate	13%	15%	15%
Allowed Catch	2,470	3,000	3,300
Preliminary Catch Through 9/14	1,728	1,728	1,728
Late Fall Platforms	100	100	100
Total Catch	1,828	1,828	1,828
Harvest rate	9.6%	9.1%	8.3%
Remaining available for this week's fishery	642	1,172	1,472

- The tribes are proposing to allow tribal fishers to begin setting nets as early as 6:00 AM on Tuesday. This is done to allow fishers to set gear when winds in the Columbia Gorge are typically lighter which is safer to set gear. Normally nets would not be checked prior to noon. The tribes do not think it would be a problem to delay the sales of gillnets caught fish until noon, if time is needed to put state regulations in place.

<i>Recommendation: 2012 Fall Season Treaty Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>	
Season:	Noon Tuesday September 18 through 6:00 PM Friday September 21 (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. The Spring Creek hatchery sanctuary will be reduced to a 150 radius around the hatchery ladder.
Allowable Sales:	Commercial Sales of Gillnet Caught Fish from this opening can only occur after Noon on September 18. 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.