

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 10**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 4, 2008**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial
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*Run forecasts for the 2008 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 22, 2008)*

**2008 Run Sizes**

- Through September 3, 147,450 total adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. 259,494 A and B Index steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam since July 1. 20,568 adult coho have passed Bonneville Dam.
- TAC met on September 3 to discuss run sizes and harvests to date. TAC believes the Spring Creek tule run (BPH stock) is larger than forecast, but has not been able to make a determination for the bright runs (including URBs) yet. It is early to make a precise prediction of either the BPH or URB run size yet. Typically the 50% complete date for both stocks will occur sometime within the next week. Generally Chinook counts are high, which can indicate either an early timed run or runs larger than forecast.
- Coho counts are tracking higher than predicted for this time of year. It will be some time before an update can be made for the total coho run size at Bonneville.
- Preliminary analysis of steelhead data at Bonneville suggests both the total A and total B steelhead run sizes are tracking above the pre-season forecast. TAC will update the steelhead run sizes next week.

**Treaty Indian Fisheries**

- Tribal fall season fisheries will be managed for a 23% harvest rate on the river mouth URB run size. They will also be managed for a 15% harvest rate on the combined hatchery and wild B-Index steelhead run size. These harvest rates are part of the 2008-2017 *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement.
- Platform hook and line fisheries in Zone 6 have been ongoing since June 16. Commercial sales have been allowed. Yakama Nation tributary and below Bonneville Dam fisheries are also in place. There has been no recent effort in the below Bonneville Dam fishery.
- Preliminary catch estimates and catch projections are shown in the table below. Total catch estimates are available for the first two weeks fishing and effort is available for the first three weeks. CWT data are available only for the first commercial fishing period. Projected stock composition are based on recent year averages stock composition for the second, third and proposed fourth week of fishing. Projected effort for the fourth week is assumed to be the same as this week's actual effort, which is higher than average. Early August platform catches were less than anticipated.

<b>Projected 2008 Fall Season Zone 6 Tribal Harvest</b>							
<b>Platform</b>	<b>Projected Catch Through 8/18</b>			<b>Adult Chinook</b>	<b>URB</b>	<b>Steelhead</b>	<b>B-Index Steelhead</b>
				50	35	1469	88
<b>Gillnet</b>							
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Nets</b>	<b>Adult Chinook</b>	<b>URB</b>	<b>Steelhead</b>	<b>B-Index Steelhead</b>
Preliminary Preliminary (Stock comp is projected)	8/19-8/22	3.5	297	1,656	1,428	914	239
	8/26-8/29	3.5	465	20,700	10,771	1,183	492
Projected	9/2-9/6	4.5	602	32,000	12,160	1,850	1,030
Projected	9/9-9/12	3.5	600	32,000	11,840	2,450	1,750
Platform and Gillnet Through 9/12		15		86,406	35,813	7,945	3,700

- Net counts will be made by air during each weekly commercial fishing period in the fall season.
- State and tribal staff work cooperatively to estimate total catches and sample fisheries to determine the stock composition of the catch. Catches will be reported as they become available.
- The tribes expect to be able to propose additional commercial gillnet fisheries at a later date. Commercial fisheries may extend to late September.

**Impacts to ESA-listed Fish**

URB Fall Chinook

- Treaty Indian harvest is projected to be 35,813 URBs through September 12. Based on the pre-season run size, this would equate to a 21.8% harvest rate which provides a small buffer should catches be higher than anticipated.

Steelhead

- Treaty Indian harvest is projected to be close to 3,700 B-Index steelhead through September 6. Based on the pre-season run size, this would equate to a 7.4% harvest rate, which is well within the impact limit.

## Recommendation

<i>Treaty Indian Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Dates:	6:00 AM Tuesday, Sept. 9 to 6:00 PM Friday, Sept. 12, 2008	3.5 Days
Area:	All of Zone 6	
Gear:	There will be an 8” minimum mesh size restriction	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to these gear types remain in effect including the standard Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary.	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, sockeye, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold. Sturgeon between 4-5 feet in length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be retained for subsistence. Sturgeon between 42-60 inches in the Bonneville Pool may also be retained for subsistence.	
Additional	<b>24-hour</b> Quick reporting rule in effect for Washington buyers	

- The Yakama Nation Zone-6 tributary fisheries as well as the below Bonneville Washington shore bank fishery were previously considered by the Compact and do not require action at this time.
- The expected catches are within the harvest limits in the U.S. v. Oregon 2008-2017 Management Agreement.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff may recommend a Compact (via telephone) hearing for Monday September 8 to consider any needed modification to treaty Indian commercial fishing periods if updated run sizes or stock composition estimates change significantly.