

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 21
Columbia River Compact
October 6, 2008

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

2008 Run Sizes

- TAC met on October 6 and did not modify the inseason Chinook forecasts from the updates shown in Fact Sheet 17. The URB river mouth forecast remains at 212,000.
- Spring Creek hatchery has had over 30,000 tules enter the hatchery. Their broodstock collection is complete and spawning is complete.
- There were 85,005 early coho at Bonneville and 12,353 late coho to date at Bonneville.
- TAC increased the total B steelhead forecast at Bonneville at 99,700.

Treaty Indian Fisheries

- Tribal fall season fisheries will be managed for a 27% maximum harvest rate on the river mouth URB run size. They will also be managed for a 20% 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 six weeks fishing and effort is available for the first seven weeks. CWT data are available for the first six commercial fishing periods. Projected harvests for the seventh and eighth week are based on recent year averages harvest rates for the seventh and proposed eighth week of fishing. Projected effort for the eighth week is assumed to be a bit less than last week's effort as more fishermen are expected to leave the fishery. B steelhead catches have been adjusted upward based on a more conservative method of examining the sampling data. TAC will continue to examine sampling data in an effort to determine the best way to estimate the total B steelhead catch.
- Effort and prices have been higher than typical in this year's fishery. The tribes anticipate that as the run continues, that effort and prices will decrease over time.

2008 Zone 6 Fall Treaty Harvests													
Platform				Total Adult Chinook	URB	URB Rate	MCB	BPH	Other	Total Steelhead	Total A	Total B	Total B Harvest Rate
				50	35	0.0%	2	4	9	1469	1381	88	0.1%
Week	Dates	Days	Nets	Total Adult Chinook	URB	URB Rate	MCB	BPH	Other	Total Steelhead	Total A	Total B	Total B Harvest Rate
34	8/19-8/22	3.5	297	2,057	1,428	0.7%	68	160	401	914	859	55	0.1%
35	8/26-8/29	3.5	465	22,072	9,346	4.4%	929	11,482	315	1,183	557	626	0.6%
36	9/2-9/6	4.5	602	35,384	7,785	3.7%	5,917	21,615	67	4,026	1,852	2,174	2.2%
37	9/9-9/12	3.5	663	21,824	11,349	5.3%	2,517	7,942	16	3,734	1,270	2,464	2.5%
38	9/16-9/19	3.5	691	10,316	4,394	2.1%	3,731	2,171	20	3,600	576	3,024	3.0%
39	9/22-9/26	4.5	443	8,440	4,315	2.0%	3,433	692	0	4,731	1,750	2,981	3.0%
Subtotal				100,143	38,652	18.2%	16,597	44,066	828	19,657	8,245	11,412	11.4%
40	9/30-10/3	3.5	466	8,202	5,996	2.8%	1,706	500	0	4,752	1,500	3,252	3.3%
Subtotal				108,345	44,648	21.0%	18,303	44,566	828	24,409	9,745	14,664	14.7%
41	10/7-10/10	3.5	450	5,080	3,550	1.7%	1,530	0		5,000	1,500	3,500	3.5%
Late Fall Platforms				300	200	0.1%				200	100	100	0.1%
Total				113,725	48,398	22.8%	19,833	44,566	828	29,609	11,345	18,264	18.3%
Forecast													
URB				212,500									
Total B				99,700									

- Net counts will be made by air again this week.
- State and tribal staff continue to 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 propose to again discontinue the mesh restriction in the fishery for this week. Given the large coho return, some fishers wish to target coho. Since the tribal fishery is well within the allowed steelhead limit, the tribes believe this is an appropriate decision. This also offers an opportunity to make a comparison between fishing with and without a mesh restriction which should help in making future management decisions.
- The tribes also propose maintaining the reduced the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary to a 50 foot radius around the hatchery ladder.
- The tribes expect this to be the final mainstem commercial gillnet fishery.
- The tribes will continue to allow sales of platform and hook and line caught fish for the time being, but may discontinue sales if they decide to issue any late season subsistence gillnet permits. If the tribes issue subsistence gillnet permits, the Yakima Nation will propose appropriate regulations to manage continued commercial sales of Drano Lake and Klickitat fisheries.

Impacts

URB Fall Chinook

- Treaty Indian harvest is projected to be 48,398 URBs through October 10. Based on the pre-season run size, this would equate to a 22.8% harvest rate which is well within the harvest limit of 27%.

Steelhead

- Treaty Indian harvest is projected to be close to 18,264 B-Index steelhead through October 3. Based on the pre-season run size, this would equate to a 18.3% harvest rate which is within the 20% impact limit.

Recommendation

<i>Treaty Indian Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Dates:	6:00 AM Tues, Oct. 7 to 6:00 PM Friday, Oct. 10, 2008	3.5 Days
Area:	All of Zone 6	
Gear:	There will be No minimum mesh size restriction	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to these gear types remain in effect except the standard Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary will be reduced to a 50 foot radius around the hatchery ladder entrance.	
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	24-hour 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.