

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

TRIBAL STAFF REPORT FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5b September 6, 2007

Purpose:	Consider Tribal Commercial Fishery Proposal
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TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

- Based on the 2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement in U.S. v. Oregon, the fall season tribal fishery has a 23.04% harvest rate on URB Chinook and a 15% harvest rate on Wild B Index Steelhead.
- The platform/hook and line fishery is open for sales and subsistence use in all of Zone 6 beginning August 1. Preliminary estimates indicate the platform fishery has harvested about 330 fall Chinook (including 216 URB's) and 1,390 steelhead (including 10 wild B steelhead) over the first part of the fall management period (through August 21).
- The Yakama Nation will continue allow commercial sale of fish caught in their Zone 6 tributary fisheries that overlap with commercial Zone 6 periods. Sales were allowed beginning August 1 and will continue until further notice. The general fishing schedule for these tributaries is:

<i>Tributary</i>	<i>Regularly Scheduled Opening</i>	<i>Allowed Commercial Sales</i>
Big White Salmon River	Closed Sundays	Weekly: 6:00 AM Mon. to 6 PM Saturday (no fishing Sundays)
Klickitat River	Noon Tuesday to 6 PM Saturdays through December 22	Weekly: Noon Tues. to 6 PM Saturday (no fishing Sundays)
Drano Lake	TBD	TBD

Since the sales are allowed in the Zone 6 platform fishery on an on-going basis, sales would be allowed in these tributaries whenever they are open.

- Gillnet harvests to date have been less than anticipated for Chinook although close for steelhead. Additionally, based on current CWT stock composition estimates, the URB impacts in the tribal fishery are significantly below what would typically be expected for this time of year.
- Tule jack impacts (including "stubby" type jacks) have made up an unusually significant portion of the total harvest to date.

- The following table outlines the estimated harvest in the first two gillnet openings and the projected harvest in this week's opening. It also shows the projected harvest in the proposed next two openings of the tribal commercial gillnet fishery.

Fishery	Dates	Nets	Total Chinook	URB Chinook	Total URB Harvest Rate	Total steelhead	Wild B Steelhead	Total Wild B Harvest Rate
Platform	Through 8/21		329	216	0.12%	1,389	10	0.09%
Gillnet #1	8/22-8/24	337	1,930	597	0.32%	1,306	16	0.15%
Gillnet #2	8/28-8/31	469	5,122	1,838	0.99%	1,688	55	0.51%
Projected Gillnet #3	9/4-9/8	451	10,546	7,184	3.88%	2,161	65	0.60%
Subtotal			17,927	9,835	5.31%	6,544	146	1.35%
Proposed Gillnet #4	9/11-9/14	500	10,676	7,465	4.03%	2,893	172	1.59%
Proposed Gillnet #5	9/17-9/21	450	6,249	4,913	2.65%	2,847	207	1.92%
Subtotal for proposed fisheries			16,925	12,378	6.68%	5,740	379	3.51%
Grand Total			34,852	22,213	11.99%	12,284	525	4.86%

- Projected catches are modeled using historic weekly harvest rates. Effort (number of nets) is predicted using recent years' data.
- A minimum mesh size restriction of 8 inches beginning September 1 is intended to minimize steelhead catch.
- Based on the pre season run size projections after this weeks fishery the tribal fishery would have a 5.3% URB harvest rate and a 1.4% Wild B harvest rate.
- At the pre-season run size projections, after the next two weeks of fishing, the tribal fishery would have 12% URB harvest rate and a 4.9% Wild B harvest rate.
- If the river mouth URB run size were only 150,000, after the next two weeks of fishing the URB harvest rate would be 15% which is still well within the allowed impact limits.

Fishery Proposal

<i>2007 Fall Season- Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Dates:	6:00 AM Tuesday, September 11 until 6:00 PM Friday, September 14 6:00 AM Monday, September 17 until 6:00 PM Friday, September 21.	(3.5 days) (4.5 days)
Area:	All of Zone 6	
Gear:	8 inch minimum mesh size restriction	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries remain in effect. Including the Standard Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary.	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sockeye may not be sold but may be 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 45-60 inches in the Bonneville pool may also be retained for subsistence.	
Miscellaneous Rules:	24-hour quick reporting rule for Washington buyers will be in effect.	

- A weekly net flight will be done to measure fishing effort. Tribal monitors are in place to estimate total catches. State staff will be collecting CWT's and other biological data. Harvest estimates and stock composition estimates will be reported to and reviewed by TAC.

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

September 6,, 2007