

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 24
Columbia River Compact
October 15, 2008

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial
--------------------------------	--------------------------

*Pre-Season Run forecasts for the 2008 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1
(July 22, 2008)*

2008 Run Sizes

- TAC updated the URB river mouth forecast remains at 224,200.
- 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 39,220 late coho to date at Bonneville. The late run coho may be greater than 50,000 at Bonneville.
- The total Group B steelhead forecast at Bonneville remains 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 and effort data are available for the first eight weeks fishing. CWT data are available for the first six commercial fishing periods. Projected harvests for the seventh and eighth week are based on week 6 CWT's. Projected effort and catches for the ninth week is assumed to be a bit less than last week's effort as more fishermen are expected to leave the fishery.
- Net counts will be made by air again next 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 continue having no mesh restrictions for next week's fishery. 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. Steelhead counts at Bonneville are dropping quickly and are dropping gradually at the other dams. So far, data indicate fishing without a mesh restriction may have only moderately increased steelhead impacts.
- The tribes also propose eliminating the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary since spawning is complete and few tules remain.

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	0.6%	68	160	401	914	859	55	0.1%
35	8/26-8/29	3.5	465	22,072	9,346	4.2%	929	11,482	315	1,183	557	626	0.6%
36	9/2-9/6	4.5	602	35,384	7,785	3.5%	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	5.1%	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	2.0%	3,731	2,171	20	3,600	576	3,024	3.0%
39	9/22-9/26	4.5	443	8,440	4,315	1.9%	3,433	692	0	4,731	1,750	2,981	3.0%
40	9/30-10/3	3.5	466	4,278	2,187	1.0%	1,740	351	0	2,169	205	1,964	2.0%
Subtotal				104,421	40,839	18.2%	18,337	44,417	828	21,826	8,450	13,376	13.4%
41	10/7-10/10	3.5	177	1,825	933	0.4%	742	150		2,849	530	2,319	2.3%
Subtotal				106,246	41,772	18.6%	19,079	44,567	828	24,675	8,980	15,695	15.7%
Late Fall Platforms	10/20-10/23	3.5	100	1,000	500	0.2%	400	100		3,100	600	2,500	2.5%
Total				107,546	42,572	19.0%	19,679	44,667	828	27,975	9,680	18,295	18.4%
Forecast													
URB		224,200											
Total B		99,700											

Coho harvest totals 18,620 to date with over 3,000 caught in the week of October 7. The coho catch expectation is approximately 2,700 for next week.

- 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 45,572 URBs through October 23. Based on the pre-season run size, this would equate to a 19.0% harvest rate, which is well with in the harvest limit of 27%.

Steelhead

- Treaty Indian harvest is projected to be close to 18,295 B-Index steelhead through October 23. Based on the in-season run size, this would equate to a 18.4% harvest rate which is within the harvest limit of 20%.

Recommendation

<i>Treaty Indian Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Dates:	6:00 AM Monday, Oct. 20 to 6:00 PM Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008	3.5 Days
Area:	All of Zone 6	
Gear:	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 is not needed this time of year.	
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. Sales of fish are allowed after the end of the fishing period as long as fish were landed during the open period.	
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.