

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

TRIBAL STAFF REPORT FALL FACT SHEET NO. 13b September 27, 2007

Purpose:

Consider Tribal Commercial Fishery Proposal

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

- For information on Run Sizes see Fact Sheet number 12.
- 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 189 adult fall Chinook (including 92 URB's) and 2,510 steelhead (including 64 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. 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 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 five gillnet openings and the projected harvest in this week's opening. It also shows the projected harvest in the proposed opening next week for the tribal commercial gillnet fishery. TAC is still in the process of reviewing CWT data and stock composition estimates.

Fishery	Dates	Nets	Total Adult Chinook Catch	URB Catch	BPH Catch	URB Harvest Rate	Total Steelhead catch	Wild B Steelhead	Wild B Harvest Rate
Platform	Through 8/21		189	92	48	0.04%	2,510	64	0.97%
Gillnet #1	8/22-8/24	337	1,434	810	238	0.20%	1,143	29	0.44%
Gillnet #2	8/28-8/31	469	3,709	2,307	1,126	0.95%	1,525	65	0.99%
Gillnet #3	9/4-9/8	451	8,792	3,062	2,550	2.15%	1,795	96	1.45%
Gillnet #4	9/11-9/14	528	6,402	2,716	791	0.67%	2,037	134	2.03%
Preliminary Gillnet #5	9/17-9/21	486	8,699	3,435	1,625	1.37%	2,795	145	2.20%
Preliminary Gillnet #6	9/25-9/28	433	3,325	2,983	1,770	1.49%	2,000	124	1.88%
Subtotal for current fisheries			32,550	15,405	8,148	13.00%	13,805	657	9.96%
Projected Gillnet #7	10/3-10/6	430	1,610	815	0	0.69%	2,100	115	1.74%
Grand Total			34,160	16,220	8,148	13.69%	15,905	772	11.70%

- 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 week's fishery the tribal fishery would have a 13.0% URB harvest rate and a 9.96% Wild B harvest rate.
- Based on updated run size projections and adjusting for this year's catch rates, after the next week of fishing, the tribal fishery would have a 13.7% URB harvest rate and a 11.7% Wild B harvest rate. Even if stock composition estimates change in a manner that increases URB impacts to date, the tribal fishery is far enough below allowed impacts that it should not effect next week's fishing proposal.

Fishery Proposal

<i>2007 Fall Season- Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Dates:	6:00 AM Wednesday, October 3 until 6:00 PM Saturday, October 6	(3.5 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. 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.	

- The tribes have been using the standard (or large) Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary for all openings this year. The sanctuary extends 1 ½ miles downstream from the hatchery and one mile upstream to the Big White Salmon River mouth sanctuary. This is designed to facilitate tule escapement to the hatchery and historically has been sufficient at all but the lowest tule run sizes. Overall escapement to Spring Creek Hatchery is larger than forecast pre-season because of the high jack return, it is the female escapement that unfortunately is well below desired levels. Because it is very late in the tule run, the tribes do not view changes to the sanctuary as useful to get more fish into the hatchery at this late date.
- A weekly net flight will be done to measure fishing effort. Tribal monitors continue to be 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.
- TAC is also still reviewing steelhead run size updates. Recent sampling data at Bonneville suggests that there will be a modest increase in the predicted Wild B run size estimate which has the effect of reducing harvest rate estimates.

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