

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 20**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 29, 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 September 29 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 close to 30,000 tules enter the hatchery. Their broodstock collection is complete and spawning is nearly complete if not complete.
- There will likely be from 82,000 to 86,000 early coho at Bonneville.
- TAC left the total B steelhead forecast at Bonneville at 90,000.

**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 five weeks fishing and effort is available for the first six weeks. CWT data are available for the first four commercial fishing periods. Projected harvests for the sixth and seventh week are based on recent year averages harvest rates for the fifth and proposed sixth week of fishing. Projected effort for the seventh week is assumed to be a bit less than last week's effort as some fishermen are expected to leave the fishery.
- 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													
				Total Adult Chinook	URB	URB Rate	MCB	BPH	Other	Total Steelhead	Total A	Total B	Total B Harvest Rate
Platform				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	919	675	244	0.3%
35	8/26-8/29	3.5	465	21,879	9,515	4.5%	359	11,690	315	1,192	691	501	0.6%
36	9/2-9/6	4.5	602	35,619	7,045	3.3%	5,242	23,265	67	4,021	2,324	1,697	1.9%
37	9/9-9/12	3.5	663	21,777	10,721	5.0%	2,619	8,421	16	3,724	1,790	1,934	2.1%
38	9/16-9/19	3.5	691	10,350	5,075	2.4%	3,414	1,841	20	3,747	1,713	2,034	2.3%
Subtotal				91,732	33,819	15.9%	11,704	45,381	828	15,072	8,574	6,498	7.2%
39	9/22-9/26	4.5	443	7,466	4,431	2.1%	2,474	561	0	4,285	1,185	3,100	3.4%
40	9/30-10/3	3.5	400	6,476	5,145	2.4%	1,195	136	0	4,580	1,328	3,252	3.6%
Total				105,674	43,395	20.4%	15,373	46,078	828	23,937	11,087	12,850	14.3%
Forecast													
URB				212,500									
Total B				90,000									

- Net counts will be made by air during each weekly commercial fishing period in the fall season.
- 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 discontinuing 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 reducing the spring creek 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 43,395 URBs through October 3. Based on the pre-season run size, this would equate to a 20.4% harvest rate which is well within the harvest limit of 27%.

### Steelhead

- Treaty Indian harvest is projected to be close to 12,850 B-Index steelhead through September 26. Based on the pre-season run size, this would equate to a 14.3% harvest rate which is well within the 20% impact limit.

## Recommendation

<i>Treaty Indian Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Dates:	6:00 AM Tues, Sept. 30 to 6:00 PM Friday, Oct. 3, 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	<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.