

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET NO. 11b
Columbia River Compact
October 8, 2014

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty-Indian commercial salmon
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Detailed Stock status, forecasts, and management guidelines for 2014 fall fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 29, 2014).

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- At the current projected run sizes, tribal fisheries are managed for a 30% harvest rate on the URB stock fall chinook and a 20% harvest rate on B steelhead.

2014 Treaty-Indian Fisheries

- Fall season platform and hook and line fishing has been open for both subsistence and commercial use since Aug. 1. Fishing continues to be open downstream of Bonneville in areas covered by MOU's and MOA's with the states, but there has been no observed tribal effort in the fall season.
- The eighth week of commercial gillnet fishing began on October 6 and is ongoing. In 2014, the tribal fishery has set a record for modern times for open days of commercial gillnet fishing and had record total catches.
- The table below shows preliminary catch estimates through October 3 along with projections for this week's opening and projections for an opening next week. The tribes have not projected coho catches for this week or next week.
- Effort has remained fairly strong with 325 nets counted yesterday.
- By the end of this week, the tribal fishery is projected to have caught over 260,000 fall chinook, over 26,000 steelhead, and over 34,000 coho. The projected URB harvest rate through October 10 is 21.1%. The projected B steelhead harvest rate through October 3 is 14.7%.

2014 Fall Season Tribal Harvest									
Fishery Platform	Dates	Nets	Total Adult Chinook Catch	Adult URB	Adult MCB	Adult Tule	Total Steelhead catch	B Steelhead	Coho
	8/1- 8/18		1,086	828	122	117	2,530	60	33
Gillnet #1	8/19-8/21	403	4,616	3,520	518	497	1,941	109	40
Gillnet #2	8/26-8/30	655	14,514	10,187	1,972	2,254	2,273	195	182
Gillnet #3	9/3-9/7	726	38,194	21,751	8,948	7,432	3,496	521	1,600
Gillnet #4	9/10-9/14	682	86,144	42,526	24,616	18,996	3,227	849	7,299
Gillnet #5	9/16-9/20	610	59,606	23,595	25,860	10,147	3,892	1,137	14,055
Gillnet #6	9/24-9/27	496	32,375	19,846	8,201	4,328	3,227	1,320	6,878
Gillnet #7 (preliminary)	9/30-10/3	414	15,310	9,385	3,878	2,047	2,557	1,010	4,276
Gillnet #8 (Projected)	10/6-10/10	325	10,350	6,900	2,900	550	3,500	1,400	
Subtotal			262,194	138,538	77,014	46,368	26,643	6,601	34,363
Gillnet #9 (Projected)	10/13-10/16	300	2,755	1,500	675	580	3,400	1,300	
Late Fall Platforms			400	300	100	0	200	100	
Drano								200	
Total			265,349	140,338	77,789	46,948	30,243	8,201	34,363
Allowed				197,430				9,000	
Remaining				57,092				799	

Platform catches during weeks with commercial gillnet fisheries are included in the gillnet catch estimates. Projected catches are rounded.

Treaty Fishery Plan

- The tribes met and agreed to set the following commercial gillnet fishing period for next week.

2014 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery	
Season	6:00 AM Monday Oct. 13 to 6:00 PM Thursday, Oct. 16 (3.5 days)
Area	Zone 6
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary will be reduced to a 150 foot radius around the hatchery ladder.
Gear:	Gill nets with an 8 inch minimum mesh restriction
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (including chinook, sockeye, and coho) steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- The gillnet fishery is expected to harvest nearly 2,800 Chinook including 1,500 URBs. It is also expected to harvest up to 3,400 steelhead including 1,300 B steelhead.

- The tribes have also reserved a small number of URB's and B steelhead for late fall platform fishing which is summarized in the catch table.
- In total with the planned fishery next week, the Drano Lake Fishery, and late fall platform fishing, the total URB harvest rate is expected to be 21.3% out of 30% allowed. The B steelhead harvest rate is expected to be 18.2% out of 20% allowed. A three night fishery is expected to get the tribal fishery up to about a 21.3% harvest rate on URB's out of a 30% allowed. This would leave over 57,000 URB's remaining available to harvest.
- If the B steelhead run size were to only be 43,000, the fishery could get to a 19.1% harvest rate. While depending on the actual B run size, approximately 400-800 steelhead are expected to be remaining under the allowed B steelhead harvest rate limit under the planned fisheries, some of the platform and Drano lake impacts will not occur until after the final gillnet opening so there would be additional opportunities to modify fisheries if catches are more than expected in next week's gillnet fishery or if the run size is less than currently projected.
- The tribes will continue to monitor and report harvest on a weekly basis and will do net counts during each week of commercial gillnet fishing.
- At this time the planned gillnet opening is the final mainstem gillnet opening for the 2014 fall season.