

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8b
Columbia River Compact
September 18, 2014

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

Stock Status

- The stock status is presented in Fall Fact Sheet 8a.

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 yet in the fall season.
- There have been five weeks of commercial gillnet fishing which began on August 18.
- The table below shows preliminary catch estimates through September 13 along with projections for this week's opening and projections for an opening next week. Included with these totals is a harvest of 25,900 tules through September 13. Additionally, the total coho harvest is 8,766 through September 13. The tribes have not projected coho catches for this week or next week.

2014 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary catches)						
Fishery	Expected Effort (Nets)	Total Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	
Platforms through 8/17	na	1,086	828	2,530	60	
Aug. 18-22 (4.5 days)	280	4,713	3,518	1,941	109	
Aug 25-30 (5.5 days)	512	14,614	10,187	2,272	195	
Sept. 2-6 (4.5 days)	412	38,294	21,751	3,497	522	
Sept. 8-13 (5.5 days)	571	80,217	45,626	3,228	849	
Sept. 15-19 (4.5 days) projected	571	69,500	40,800	4,300	1,500	
Subtotal		208,424	122,710	17,768	3,235	
Sept. 22-25 (3.5 days) projected	500	44,400	22,400	4,100	1,600	
Total		252,824	145,110	21,868	4,835	
Allowed at Updated Forecast			217,020	7,300		
Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 19			17%	9%		
Remaining after Sept 19			71,910	2,465		
Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 25			20%	13%		
Remaining Harvest Rate After Sept 25			13%	11%		

Projected catches are rounded.

Treaty Fishery Plan

- The tribes met and agreed to the following commercial gillnet fishing period.
- The tribes will reduce the size of the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary because USFWS have indicated that they will exceed the hatchery broodstock requirements.

2014 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery		
Season	6:00 AM Monday Sept. 22 to 6:00 PM Thursday, Sept. 25	(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:	<p><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.</p> <p>Submission of a report is not complete until the report arrives at the designated department location.</p> <p>Reports can be made via fax at 360-906-6776 or 360-906-6777; via e-mail at crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov; or via phone at 1- 866-791-1281.</p> <p>Faxing or reporting electronically in portable document format (PDF) a copy of each fish receiving ticket used, within the previously indicated time frames specified per area, satisfies the quick reporting requirement.</p>	

- Catch expectations in the proposed fishery openings are well within the total allowed catches based on the updated run size projections for URB chinook and B steelhead. The expected catches would be within the allowed harvest rates down to a B steelhead run of 32,300.
- Because of uncertainty about the B steelhead run size and the variability in steelhead catches this time of year, the tribes have decided to only set a 3.5 day fishery at this time, but depending on the TAC run size updates next Monday and the actual catches in this week’s fishery (which will be available on Monday), the tribes may decide to extend next week’s fishery until Friday. If they decide to do this they may ask for a Compact Hearing on Tuesday or Wednesday.
- 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.

- Prices still remain relatively strong and the fall fishery continues to represent the most economically important tribal fishery and is providing significant benefits to tribal families as well as to communities and businesses along the Columbia River.