

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET NO. 10
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 17, 2015

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty commercial salmon
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Stock Status and Management Guidelines

Detailed stock status and management guidelines for 2015 fall season fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 29, 2015).

- Through September 16, 610,658 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam, of which 85% are bight stock. The Bright Chinook run is higher than the pre-season forecasts and the Spring Creek tule Chinook run is below the preseason forecast.
- TAC updated the upriver Chinook runs to 685,000 upriver bright (URB) Chinook and 139,500 Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) tule Chinook (518,300 and 163,900 preseason, respectively). TAC will be meeting each Monday and will continue to update the fall chinook run sizes. At the forecast run size the tribal fishery has a 30% harvest rate on URB fall Chinook.
- Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery has reported that they expect to meet their broodstock goal of 7,000 fish (4,000 females) and that they have already begun to surplus extra fish.
- A and B index steelhead counts since July 1 total 219,331. Steelhead have been tracking behind expectations. TAC expects the total A/B Index steelhead run to be about 250,000 at Bonneville and that the B Index steelhead will be below forecast. At the forecast run size, the tribal fishery has a 20% harvest rate on B steelhead. If the B steelhead run were to drop below 35,000, the harvest rate would drop to 15% and below 20,000, the harvest rate drops to 13%.
- Through September 17, 19,599 adult coho have passed Bonneville Dam. Coho have been tracking behind expectations. This year's run has the lowest cumulative count to date since 1997.

2015 Fall Season Fisheries

- Preliminary catches are shown in the table below. Additionally 999 coho and approximately 100 sockeye have been caught to date in fall season fisheries to date.
- For modeling purposes, the tribes have assumed a reduced B steelhead run size of 25,000 (61% of forecast). B steelhead impacts are projected to be within the allowed impact limit for run sizes at least as low as 18,000.
- Treaty platform and hook and line fisheries are on-going for both subsistence and commercial purposes.
- Two tribes have open fisheries downstream of Bonneville. Catch and effort downstream of Bonneville has generally been very low. The tribes will continue to monitor this area and report any catch that occurs.

2015 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary catches)					
Fishery	Expected Effort (Nets)	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead
Platforms through 8/16	na	953	517	1,570	330
Aug. 17-21 (4.5 days)	296	5,998	3,936	1,541	15
Aug 24-28 (4.5 days)	401	10,763	6,679	1,530	36
Aug. 31 -Sept. 5 (5.5 days)	569	44,288	22,853	2,166	166
Sept. 8-12 (4.5 days)	671	67,131	34,224	2,294	179
Subtotal		129,133	68,209	9,101	726
Sept. 15-19 (4.5 days) projected	542	44,500	24,600	2,200	300
Sept. 22-25 (3.5 days) projected	610	33,900	17,600	2,700	400
Total		207,533	110,409	14,001	1,426
Allowed at updated URB Forecast and 61% reduced B sthd. Run.			205,500		3,750
Harvest Rate as of Sept 12			10%		3%
Remaining after Sept 12			137,291		3,024
Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 25			16%		6%
Remaining after Sept 25			95,091		2,324
Remaining Harvest Rate After Sept 25			14%		9%

- Platform and hook and line harvest (above and below Bonneville Dam) is included in each week's reported gillnet catch.

Treaty Commercial Salmon

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted the following regulations:

<i>2015 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>	
Sanctuaries:	Effective at 6:00 AM on Friday September 18, the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary will be reduced to a 150 foot diameter around the hatchery ladder. All other existing regulations for the Zone 6 fishery remain in place.

- This plan provides additional harvest opportunities for tribal fishers and reduces the need for Spring Creek Hatchery to surplus fish.
- The tribes will continue to monitor report catches weekly.

Future Meetings

- A hearing is scheduled for tonight at 7 PM Thursday September 17 via teleconference to consider non-Indian commercial fisheries.
- The tribes request a Compact Hearing during the week of September 21 to address possible additional commercial gillnet openings.