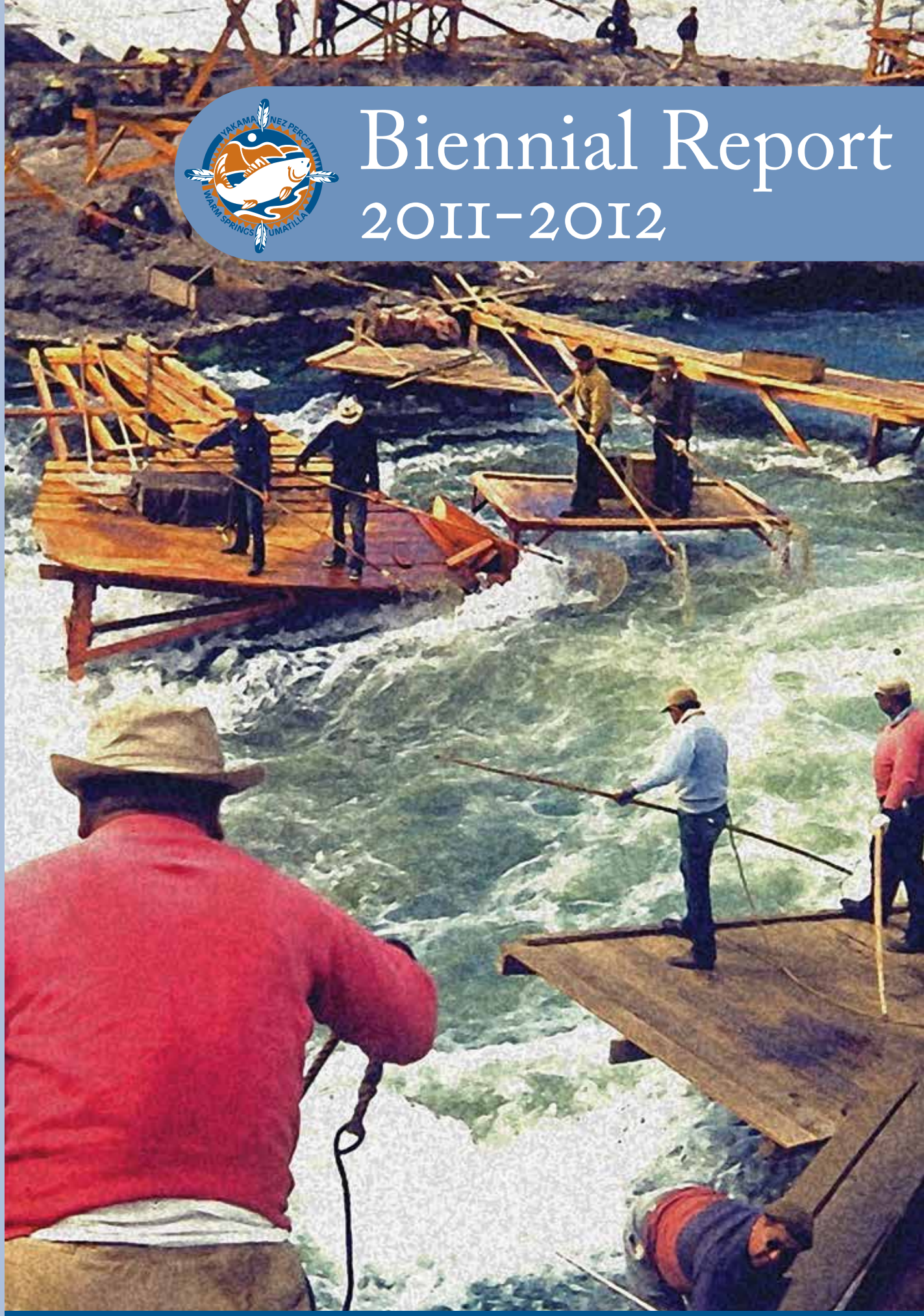
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Biennial Report 2011-2012



Yakama ≈ Umatilla ≈ Warm Springs ≈ Nez Perce

The tribal technical capacity, state of tribal/federal relations, and the health of the region's salmon runs are all very different today than when CRITFC was founded back in 1977. Despite this, core mission of CRITFC remains the same: *"to ensure a unified voice in the overall management of the fishery resources, and as managers, to protect reserved treaty rights through the exercise of the inherent sovereign powers of the tribes."* We do this by striving to accomplish four primary goals: Put Fish Back in the Rivers; Protect Tribal Treaty Rights; Share Salmon Culture; and Provide Fisher Services. This report lists CRITFC's 2011-12 accomplishments into these four primary goals.

Umatilla fisher Brigham Campbell at his family's fishing site at Cascade Locks.

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cover: Celilo Falls, Sept 1951; Matheny Collection

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In service of the salmon

CRITFC marked its 35th anniversary in 2012. Over that time, it has not only endured but grown to become one of the nation's most significant and effective intertribal natural resources organizations.

As the Commission's Executive Director, I have the opportunity to see this organization and its mission from many vantages. In all its endeavors, two things have been constant: that the organization is used by its member tribes in their efforts to protect natural resources and treaty rights, and related to that, the Commission's priority has and always will be that the good of the salmon is its ultimate concern. Protecting the salmon on behalf of the tribes is a great responsibility and a task that we were specifically organized to fulfill. We have many means to bring about what is expected of us—means granted to us by wisdom, foresight, and direction from the Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce tribal leaders who have shaped and lead this organization.

While looking back over the last three and a half decades, I couldn't help but look forward as well. A host of new challenges await us as we enter the next 35 years of intertribal cooperation.

The troubling amount of toxic contamination in the waters of the Columbia River Basin must be addressed, particularly since poor water quality has a greater impact on tribal members given the high reliance on fish in our diets.

The threat of extinction no longer hovers over the salmon as it did in the 1970s and 80s, however not all runs are out of danger and lamprey are barely hanging on in many upriver locations. We must increase natural spawning of salmon, sturgeon, and lamprey throughout the region if these sacred fish are to have any hope of long-term sustainability.

The unnatural river system that the Columbia and Snake river dams created has facilitated perfect conditions for some invasive predators. Caspian terns, northern pikeminnows, and sea lions thrive in the altered Columbia River system, taking a significant toll on the salmon, lamprey, and sturgeon. We must find a solution to this problem, because if we do nothing, the problem will only grow.

We are only beginning to learn how climate change will affect the Columbia Basin and the tribes' First Foods. Tribal fishers, hunters, and gatherers have been some of the first to notice the subtle and not so subtle changes that have already begun. With potentially catastrophic ramifications, this threat cannot and will not be ignored by the Commission.

We have the opportunity to alter the very flow of the Columbia River with the upcoming renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty between the US and Canada. A coalition of basin tribes and intertribal organizations have united to advocate for changes to this treaty that respect the ecosystem, salmon, and tribal trust responsibilities.

For some, it could be easy to become overwhelmed or discouraged over the fate of the salmon and other Columbia Basin fish, but we are spared this by the dedication, conviction, and resourcefulness of the people who make up the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, its tribal leaders, and the fisheries staffs from its four member tribes. With a solid foundation of cultural wisdom, a desire to honor the sacred fish, and the highest quality people working toward this goal, the salmon, and the tribes, will succeed.

Babtist Paul Lumley
CRITFC Executive Director

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

1977 • 35 Years of Tribal Accomplishments • 2012

Over the past 35 years, the Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce tribes have worked together through CRITFC on some very significant accomplishments and milestones that have protected tribal treaty fishing rights, salmon, and the watersheds where fish live. Here are some of the most noteworthy items accomplished in the last 35 years:

The Early Years (1977-1989)

1977 Four Tribes Found CRITFC

Lawsuits Continue to Make Progress Enforcing *U.S. v. Oregon* Ruling

One of the first CRITFC meetings. Commissioners at the table are (from left) Wilferd Yallup, Rod Cowapoo, Eugene Greene, Claude Smith.

1979 CRITFC Makes "Ocean Connection"

1981 Freedom of Information Act Used to Obtain Federal Hatchery Records

Harold Culpus and Oregon Governor Vic Atiyeh celebrate CRITFC's fifth anniversary, 1982.

1982 Tribes and CRITFC Major Contributors to First Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program

1982 Four Tribes Authorize CRITFC Fisheries Enforcement Arm

1983 Water Budget Center (Fish Passage Center) Created

1985 Four Tribes Key in Gaining Bilateral Agreement in U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty

Attempts to Deny Indian Tribes Their Steelhead Fishing Rights Finally Thwarted

1986 Successful Lawsuit Leads to No New Hydropower in Protected Areas

1988 *U.S. v. Oregon* Columbia River Fish Management Plan Signed

Flow Agreements Protect Basin's Largest Wild Fall Chinook Populations

The Middle Years (1990-2001)

1991 Salmon Marketing Program Initiated

While promoting Columbia River Indian-caught Salmon, CRITFC salmon marketing representatives met Wayne Newton.

1992 Endangered Species Act Listings Generate New Lawsuits

1994 Tribes Assert Treaty Right to Fish Willamette Falls

Snake River Fall Chinook Supplementation Won in *U.S. v Oregon* Settlement

Salmon Corps Is First Workforce Development Program

Fish Consumption Survey Published

1995 *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit*, the Spirit of the Salmon Restoration Plan Released

1997 Watershed Department Created to Coordinate Implementation of Tribal Restoration Plan

1999 CRITFC and University of Idaho Create Hagerman Genetics Laboratory

2001 Large Runs of Upriver Spring Chinook, Summer Steelhead and Coho Return

The Recent Years (2002-2012)

The Wy·Kan·Ush·Pum Village CRITFC held in conjunction with the Oxbow Salmon Festival attracted thousands of visitors eager to learn about tribal salmon culture.

2003 Events Invite Public to Celebrate Wy-Kan-Ush Pum With Message "We are All Salmon People"

2004 Dam Spill Won to Save Juvenile Salmon

CRITFC Takes Over Maintenance of In-lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites

2007 CRITFC Observes 50th Anniversary of the Flooding of Celilo Falls

Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Hagerman Genetics Laboratory when the facility was completed in 2006. The ribbon was cut by Idaho Governor Jim Risch and tribal and University of Idaho leaders.

2008 *U.S. v Oregon* Agreement Uses New Approaches

Tribes and BPA Sign Fish Accords

2010 CRITFC Holds First Indian Fishers Expo

Salmon Camp Encourages Our Native Youth to Study Math and Science

2011 BIA Law Enforcement on Columbia River Transferred to CRITFC

The Four Tribes Form Tribal FishCo, LLC

CRITFC Finalizes Lamprey Restoration Plan

Condit Dam Removed to Restore Fish Passage

First Future of Our Salmon Conference

2012 The 31 Treaty Fishing Access Sites Approved by Congress in 1988 Completed

The Dallesport Treaty Fishing Access Site dedication on April 25, 2012 marked the completion of over twenty years of effort to provide access for Indian fishers exercising their tribal treaty right to fish in Zone 6 of the Columbia River.

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Fish, Wildlife, and Law & Order Committee

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Fish & Wildlife Committee

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
Fish & Wildlife Commission

Nez Perce Tribe
Natural Resources Subcommittee
Fish & Wildlife Commission

Executive Director
Paul Lumley

- Intergovernmental Affairs
- Communications
- Administrative Services

Fisheries Management
Mike Matylewich

Fishery Science
Phil Roger

Fisheries Enforcement
Mitch Hicks

Watershed
Aja DeCoteau

Policy Development and Litigation Support
Rob Lothrop

Finance and Operations
Jon Matthews

Human Resources
Deanna Jim-Juarez

Fishing Site Maintenance
Michael Broncheau

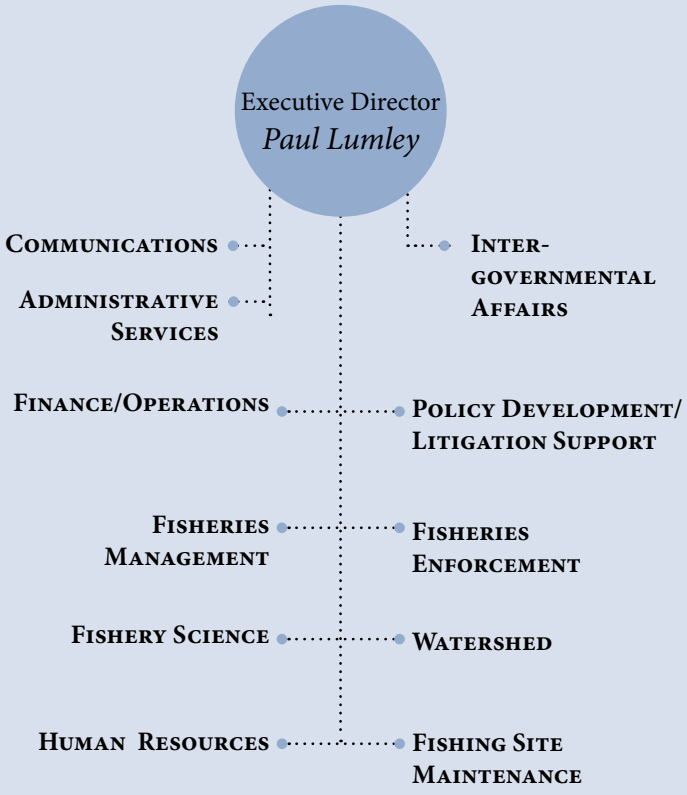
Department Overviews

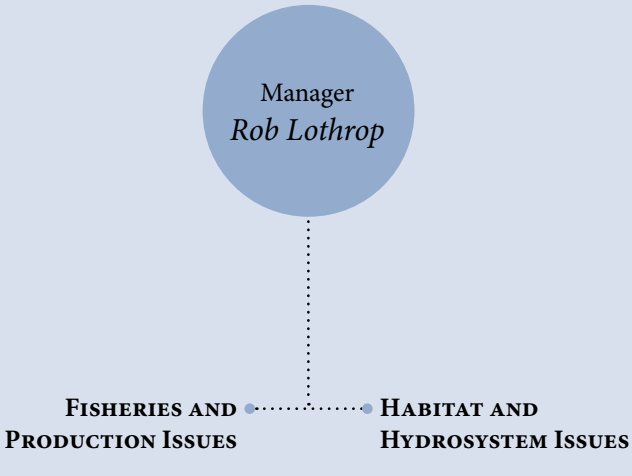
Office of the Executive Director

The Office of the Executive Director provides leadership and management for all organizational endeavors and guides the implementation of tribal policy under the guidance of the Board of Commissioners who represent the Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla, and Nez Perce tribes. CRITFC's communications and intergovernmental affairs efforts are also part of this department's responsibilities.

Policy Development and Litigation Support

The Policy Development and Litigation Support Department assists the Commission and its member tribes in their leadership roles in the development and implementation of regional, national, and international policies and laws affecting Columbia River treaty-secured fisheries. This involves litigation support, policy analysis, and communication of these efforts with the member tribes.





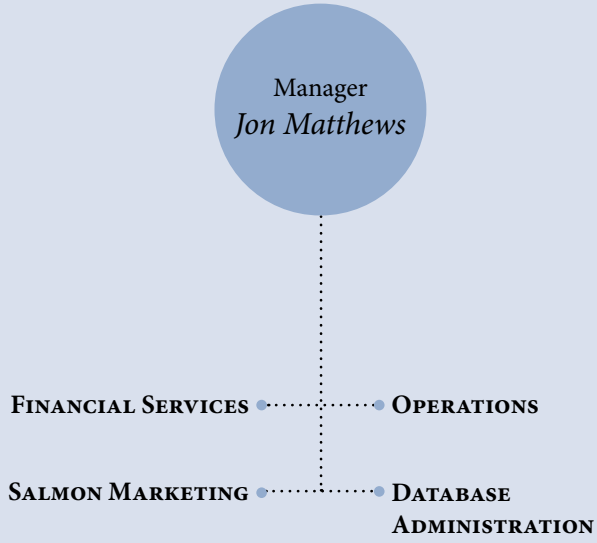
Department Overviews

Finance and Operations

The Finance and Operations Department provides financial, accounting, and operational support services that CRITFC requires to meet its goals. The department is also responsible for the Salmon Marketing program.

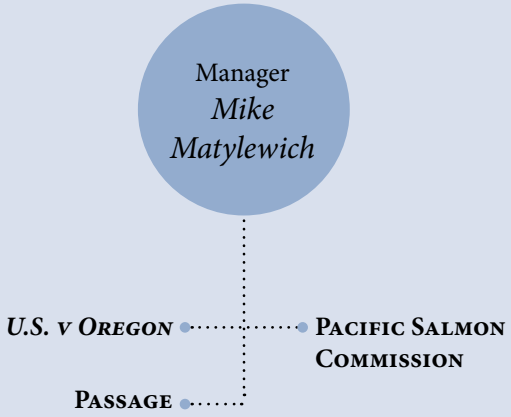
Human Resources

The Human Resources Department is charged with improving human resources planning, systems, and processes to help CRITFC management and staff meet organizational goals. Its essential functions include recruitment, selection, hiring, and new employee orientation; compensation and benefits; and performance management support.



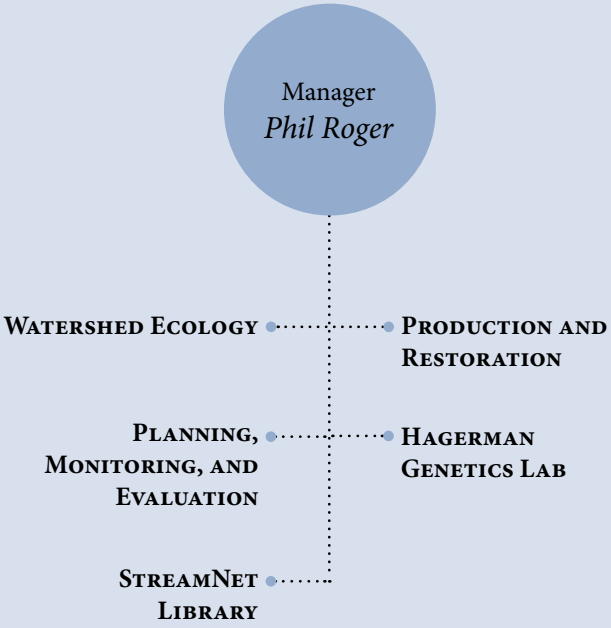
Fisheries Management

The Fisheries Management Department provides the four member tribes with technical assistance on harvest, hatchery, water management, and fish passage issues. The department tracks the catch of Columbia River salmon from southeast Alaska to the Columbia River tributaries, reviews hatchery management plans with an eye toward compatibility with naturally spawning populations, and devises plans that aim to increase the survival of juvenile and adult salmon as they migrate through the hydropower system. Tribal policy makers use the department's technical information to formulate management positions that reflect the tribal goal of returning naturally spawning fish to all their usual and accustomed fishing places.



Fishery Science

One of the primary reasons for CRITFC's founding in 1977 was to provide technical information to the four member tribes. Prior to this, the tribes were beholden to state and federal agencies for research and evaluations. A large part of the technical information that CRITFC provides today is the biological research produced by the Fishery Science Department.



Department Overviews

Fisheries Enforcement

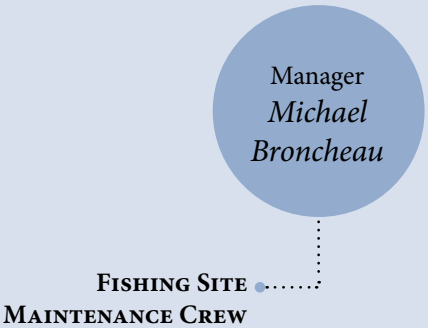
The tribes established the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's enforcement division in the early 1980s; by the 1990s, it was the dominant law enforcement presence in Zone 6 of the Columbia River. CRITFC Enforcement is based in Hood River and employs patrol officers, dispatchers, and administrative staff. The force is responsible for patrolling the 147 miles of the Columbia River that comprise the Zone 6 fishery between Bonneville and McNary dams and, beginning in 2010, the area directly below Bonneville Dam.

Watershed Department

The Watershed Department focuses on Columbia River basin salmon and habitat issues and activities impacting entire watersheds or river basins. The department's activities are guided by the holistic principles outlined in *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit* (Spirit of the Salmon), the tribal salmon restoration plan. Technical assistance, support, coordination, and project management of tribal watershed protection, fish production, water quality, and habitat restoration efforts and issues in the Columbia River basin are the primary tasks of the department. It is also responsible for water quality, climate change, and tribal workforce development projects coordinated through or conducted by CRITFC.

Fishing Site Maintenance

CRITFC operates and maintains 31 fishing sites along Zone 6 of the Columbia River for the exclusive use of Indian fishers from the four CRITFC member tribes. These sites were set aside by Congress to provide fishing locations to Indian fishers whose traditional fishing grounds were inundated behind dams. The sites offer a wide range of amenities for the fishers including access roads and parking areas, boat ramps and docks, fish cleaning tables, net racks, drying sheds, restrooms, mechanical buildings, and shelters. The Fishing Site Maintenance Department keeps the sites clean, maintains the landscaping, and keeps the boat docks and ramps in good repair. It also conducts non-routine maintenance including vandalism and other repairs and graffiti removal. These activities are done in coordination with the tribes and other entities tasked with addressing social issues affecting the sites.



Put Fish Back in the Rivers

CRITFC provides the tribes and the region with invaluable biological research, fisheries management, hydrology, and other science to support the protection and restoration of Columbia River salmon, lamprey, and sturgeon to all the rivers and streams where they were historically found. It also includes restoring the watersheds that support salmon throughout their lifecycle.

▲ *The blast from 700 pounds of dynamite. The blast opened a hole in the base of the dam, allowing the reservoir to drain through the bottom of the dam. After the reservoir was drained, the dam was demolished.*

Condit Dam Removed to Restore Fish Passage

Condit Dam, on the White Salmon River, was the second largest dam in the United States to be removed to restore fish passage and river ecosystem function. The hydroelectric dam was breached when 700 pounds of dynamite punched through the base of the dam on October 26, 2011. The end came 12 years after a 1999 settlement agreement between PacifiCorp, CRITFC, Yakama Nation, state and federal fish agencies, American Rivers, and other non-governmental organizations. The removal was the culmination of over 20 years of work by CRITFC and the tribes.

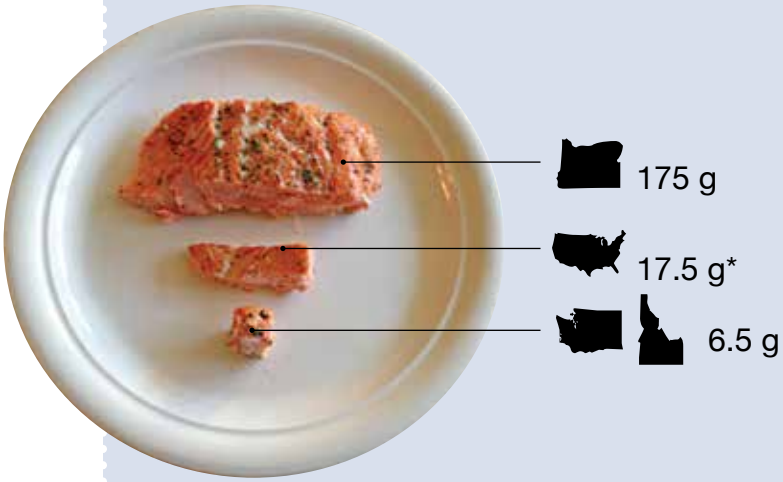
Constructed in 1913, Condit Dam was a complete barrier to over 30 miles of habitat for Pacific lamprey, steelhead, coho, and spring and fall chinook. The dam removal opened a significant amount of spawning and rearing habitat and allows the White Salmon River to run unimpeded again. Hopes are high for abundant fish runs again in the White Salmon as the salmon from this river will now have to pass only one dam, Bonneville Dam, during their migratory journey. Most tribal fisheries rely on salmon that have to traverse multiple dams to complete their life cycle.

Projected annual adult salmon returns to the river after removal are 1,200 coho, 600 steelhead, 1,000 fall chinook (tule), and 800 spring chinook.

Toxics Reduction in the Columbia River Basin

A CRITFC study on fish consumption was used in 2011 as the basis to change Oregon's water quality standards. The new standard is the strictest in the nation and will protect tribal members and others who eat fish nearly every day. To meet the new higher standard, Oregon waters will need to be cleaner and contain fewer harmful contaminants.

Washington state officials are considering similar standards. In 2012 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rejected Idaho's proposed standards because they did not consider local fish consumption data in determining target criteria that would be protective of human health.



States set allowable water pollution levels based partly on how much fish caught in its waterways that its residents eat. This plate shows how much salmon each state ensures you can safely eat a day. The national standard is the EPA's 2000 fish consumption guidance to the states.

CRITFC and the U.S. Geological Survey are cooperating on several studies. One is to identify toxics in juvenile lamprey. Another is a study of contaminants in runoff from stormwater and wastewater treatment plants.

In 2012, at CRITFC's invitation, EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson met with more than 20 tribal leaders representing 15 tribes, including the 4 CRITFC member tribes, discussed toxic contamination and made the connections to environmental justice, climate change, Columbia River Treaty issues, mining and coal transportation. CRITFC also gained important support from the 57 member tribes of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians in passing formal resolutions that address the issue of toxics in the region.

Meanwhile, the Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group made up of representatives from CRITFC, tribal governments, EPA and other federal agencies, state agencies, and nonprofits

CRITFC staff who coordinated the meeting between the US EPA and the Columbia River Basin tribes (l to r): Laura Gephart, Watershed Programs Coordinator; Paul Lumley, CRITFC Executive Director; Lisa Jackson, US EPA Administrator; Aja DeCoteau, Watershed Department Manager; Dianne Barton, Water Quality Coordinator; Mary Lou Soscia, EPA Columbia River Coordinator.

hosted executive sessions in 2011 and 2012, where organization leaders committed to reducing toxic contaminants in the Columbia watershed through cooperative initiatives. These efforts include: developing guidance for low toxicity purchasing; establishing a regional green chemistry center that will redesign products to reduce or eliminate hazardous materials; and expanding efforts to meet stormwater discharge goals. Tribal leaders expressed an urgency to get moving on what they recognize will be a large-scale, multigenerational project. To support this effort, the four member tribes and CRITFC are

advocating for a renewed Columbia River Restoration Act that would provide the financial support needed for a large-scale ecosystem protection program. Sustainable funding would support the monitoring and remediation programs necessary to protect the watershed on a regional scale.

Pacific Lamprey Restoration Gains Momentum

"The eels' significance to our culture and their decline is something the region cannot ignore," said the 2010-2011 CRITFC chairman Gerald Lewis. "The region has a responsibility to help care for these creatures and time is running out. We can't afford to lose them from our ceremonies or our watersheds."

CRITFC has been raising awareness about the plummeting numbers of Pacific lamprey and the need to implement actions to reverse the decline.

In 2011, at a CRITFC-sponsored international conference, Finish and Japanese lamprey researchers presented information on how fisheries agencies in those countries have been improving methods for the artificial propagation of lamprey. This information will help the tribes and their regional partners develop a strong framework for creating successful lamprey hatcheries.

Also in 2011, the tribes and CRITFC released the Tribal Pacific Lamprey Restoration Plan for the Columbia River Basin, the most comprehensive look yet at the problem of plummeting lamprey numbers and the ways to address their recovery.

Then in 2012, CRITFC held a third Lamprey Summit. Hosted by CRITFC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the two-day summit focused on Pacific lamprey issues along the entire West Coast and the steps necessary to restore the ancient fish.

Appearing in the fossil record 450 million years ago, Pacific lamprey are the oldest fish in the Columbia River system. Like salmon, lamprey are an anadromous fish. They are prey for other species and provide marine nutrients to the basin's tributary ecosystems. They are a significant subsistence and cultural resource for tribal communities. Once returning to the Columbia River and its tributaries by the millions, only 23,000 Pacific lamprey were counted at Bonneville Dam in 2010—likely an all-time low. Fortunately about twice as many—48,000—were counted at Bonneville the following year.

The goal of CRITFC Tribal Pacific Lamprey Restoration Plan is to reestablish lamprey as a fundamental ecological and cultural component of the river system using a range of actions throughout the species' lifecycle. That includes improving passage for juvenile and adult lamprey, restoring and protecting habitat, reducing toxic contaminants and considering conservation strategies such as artificial propagation to aid basin wide recolonization.

Columbia River Treaty Milestone

Through CRITFC leadership, regional consensus was reached on the need to include ecosystem-based functions in the 2014-2024 review of the Columbia River Treaty. Canada and the United States signed the Columbia River Treaty in 1961 for two primary purposes, to develop hydropower generation and manage flood risk on the international river system.

Now a third primary purpose, ecosystem functions, is to be integrated into the 2014-2024 review of the treaty. Reducing fluctuations in reservoir levels, reconnecting floodplains and wetlands, and restoring fish passage into Canada past Grand Coulee Dam are examples of ecosystem functions. Such an approach would modernize the treaty and help the US and Canada address climate change impacts and their respective responsibilities to Columbia basin tribes and First Nations.

Neither country considered natural and cultural resources relevant or necessary when they signed the original treaty nor did they consult Columbia basin tribes and First Nations regarding the treaty's effects on indigenous lands, resources, and cultures. This time around, the tribes are prepared to protect their interests and restore fish populations to historical locations, including past Grand Coulee Dam into Canada.

Scientific Research and Analyses Support CRITFC Goals

Technical reports and the results of CRITFC research studies are published periodically throughout the year and are online at http://www.critfc.org/fish-and-watersheds/fishery-science/scientific-reports/

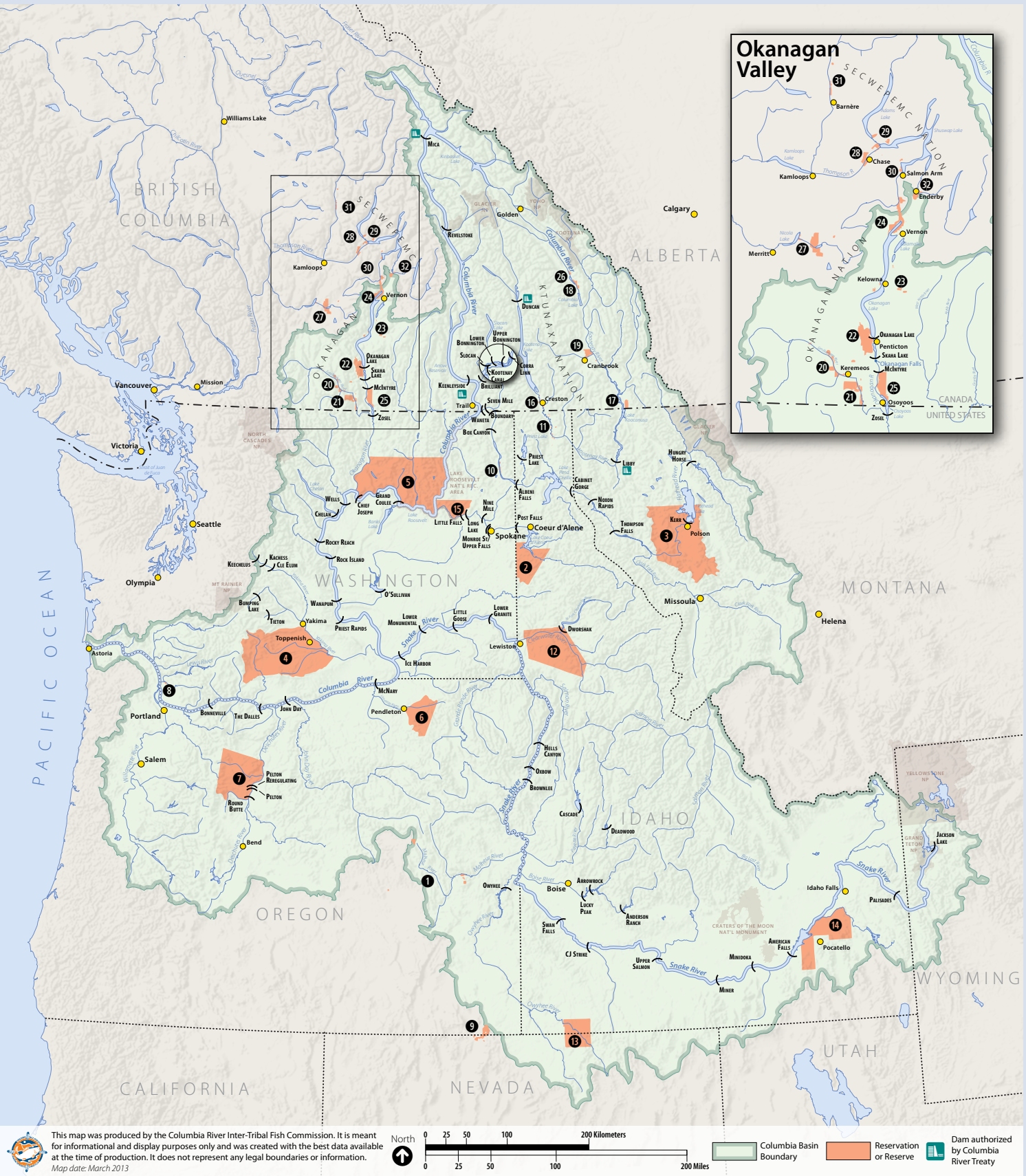
In 2011-2012, staff completed and published 34 scientific studies, including results from research conducted at Hagerman Genetics Laboratory in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, Molecular Ecology, North American Journal of Fisheries Management, Molecular Ecology Resources,* and *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.* Staff made nearly 100 scientific presentations.

A few of our research and analysis projects:

A study of Columbia River stock composition, age structure and run timing based on scale sampling, PIT tags and other biological data provided information for run-timing and stock composition evaluations. Genetic structure and stock composition is important for fisheries management purposes, including understanding which stocks are present in the river at the time of harvest and where stocks fit within ESA-defined geographic areas.

Molecular Ecology published the results of the research conducted on hatchery supplementation at the Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement Project. This groundbreaking study, which used

The 15 US Indian Tribes and 17 Canadian First Nations with management authorities and responsibilities affected by the Columbia River Treaty. This map does not include all tribes in the Columbia Basin.



This map was produced by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. It is meant for informational and display purposes only and was created with the best data available at the time of production. It does not represent any legal boundaries or information.
Map date: March 2013

data from the Hagerman Genetics Lab, showed that hatchery-reared summer chinook have equivalent reproductive success as wild-origin summer chinook. This study furthered the tribes' position that hatcheries are an important tool in the effort to rebuild salmon populations.

A study on sea lion monitoring and non-lethal hazing was completed. Because seal lions congregate near the dam's tailrace where salmon are easy prey, visual observations at the dam are used to estimate seal lion predation rates and to assess the effectiveness of hazing efforts. An unanticipated finding of the study was that sea lion predation in areas below Bonneville Dam is likely greater than previously estimated. Visual counts at these locations are problematic, making sea lion predation estimates potentially more difficult.

Collaborative work with the Yakama Nation and Nez Perce Tribe involved reconditioning kelt (post-spawn) steelhead as an innovative way to increase spawning abundance. Research at the Parkdale Fish Facility on the Hood River suggests that kelts are as reproductively viable as first time spawners. Reconditioning is a process of collecting post-spawn steelhead, treating them for diseases and parasites, and feeding the fish for several months before releasing them in the fall to spawn with the new run of steelhead. A paper describing reconditioning work in the Yakima River was published in the *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*.

Snake River Fall Chinook Program Returning Healthy Numbers of Fish—A Success Story

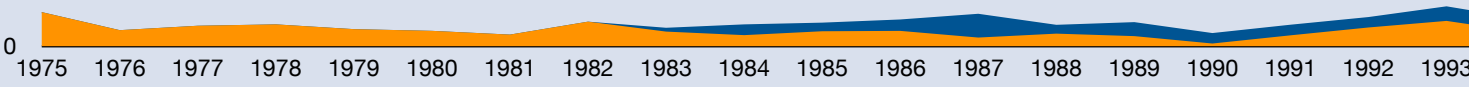
Continued high numbers of Snake River fall chinook redds throughout the Snake and Clearwater river basins demonstrate the success of tribal restoration projects. Data released in the 2012 Cooperative Fall Chinook Salmon Spawning Summary written by tribal, federal, state, and utility biologists showed approximately 4,800 redds, or gravel nests, were built by returning adults in the Snake River and its tributaries between Lower Granite and Hells Canyon dams. This is the third highest number of redds since intensive surveys began in 1988. In 2012, 34,688 adult fall chinook passed Lower Granite Dam, one of the highest returns since completion of the four lower Snake River dams in the 1970s.

Multiple salmon nests or "redds" are visible on this stretch of the Clearwater River, the largest tributary of the Snake River. Photo courtesy Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries.

The higher adult returns produced more redds (salmon nests)—and they were widely distributed throughout nearly all survey areas. The healthy redd distribution and overall higher redd counts are the result of a tribal supplementation program. The Nez Perce Tribe is boosting existing Snake River fall chinook with biologically appropriate hatchery-reared fish to assist naturally spawning runs.

The Nez Perce Tribe, in coordination with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and federal and state co-managers, are implementing the Snake River Fall Chinook Program in an effort to restore fall chinook salmon above Lower Granite Dam.

The Snake River Fall Chinook Program was initiated in 1994 as a result of legal actions by the



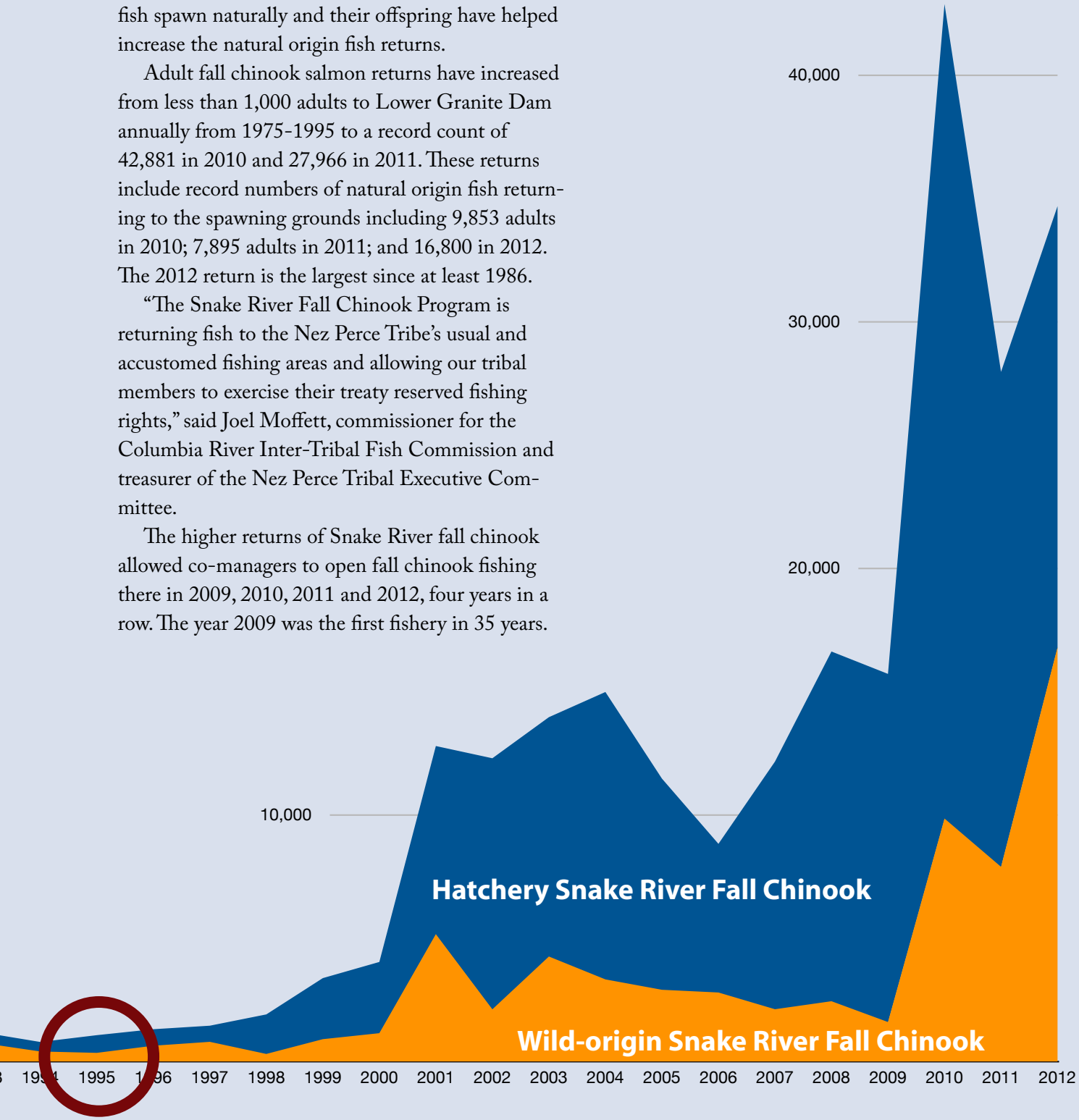
tribes under *U.S. v. Oregon*. Today the Nez Perce Tribe releases 450,000 yearling fall chinook and 2.8 million sub-yearling fall chinook from tribal facilities as part of the overall program that releases 5 million fish back in to the system. Many of these fish spawn naturally and their offspring have helped increase the natural origin fish returns.

Adult fall chinook salmon returns have increased from less than 1,000 adults to Lower Granite Dam annually from 1975-1995 to a record count of 42,881 in 2010 and 27,966 in 2011. These returns include record numbers of natural origin fish returning to the spawning grounds including 9,853 adults in 2010; 7,895 adults in 2011; and 16,800 in 2012. The 2012 return is the largest since at least 1986.

"The Snake River Fall Chinook Program is returning fish to the Nez Perce Tribe's usual and accustomed fishing areas and allowing our tribal members to exercise their treaty reserved fishing rights," said Joel Moffett, commissioner for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and treasurer of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee.

The higher returns of Snake River fall chinook allowed co-managers to open fall chinook fishing there in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, four years in a row. The year 2009 was the first fishery in 35 years.

Total hatchery (shown in blue) and natural origin (shown in orange) Snake River fall chinook salmon counts at Lower Granite Dam. The year the Snake River Fall Chinook Recovery Program began is circled in red.



Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery

Located on the banks of the Clearwater River in Idaho, the Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery Complex began operations in 2003. This is the main facility supporting the Clearwater River component of the Snake River fall chinook program. At the facility, the tribe strives to preserve the genetic integrity of affected fish populations while enhancing harvest opportunities for treaty Indian and non-Indian fishers. The Nez Perce Tribal Hatchery Complex uses several semi-natural rearing techniques to encourage hatchery-reared fish to behave like their wild counterparts.

Hells Canyon Dam Complex Relicensing

For more than a decade, Idaho Power Company has been in the process of seeking relicensing for its Hells Canyon hydroelectric dams from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The three-dam complex has blocked salmon passage to the upper Snake River for a half century. CRITFC, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation are involved in the relicensing process and advocating for water quality and the reintroduction of salmon above these dams.

To alleviate increased water temperatures below the complex, CRITFC, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation are recommending a temperature control structure similar to that at Pelton Round Butte Dam, a Deschutes River dam co-owned by the Warm Springs tribe and Pacific Power. Above the Hells Canyon dams, water quality is compromised by slack waters and unregulated toxic discharges, mostly from agricultural sources. The tribes and CRITFC assert that the water could and should be cleaned up during the term of the new license, likely 30-50 years, making it suitable for salmon. New technologies have made fish passage feasible around large dams such as these on the upper Snake. All 15 Columbia Basin tribes, including the upper Snake River tribes, are advocates for salmon reintroduction above the dam complex.

Before FERC can renew Idaho Power Company's operating license, the states of Idaho and Oregon must issue water quality certifications to implement requirements of the Clean Water Act. Then the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have to develop biological opinions to carry out their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act.

At the close of 2012, license renewal was at an impasse. Working with the tribes, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are trying to find a unified federal position on these water quality and fish recovery issues.

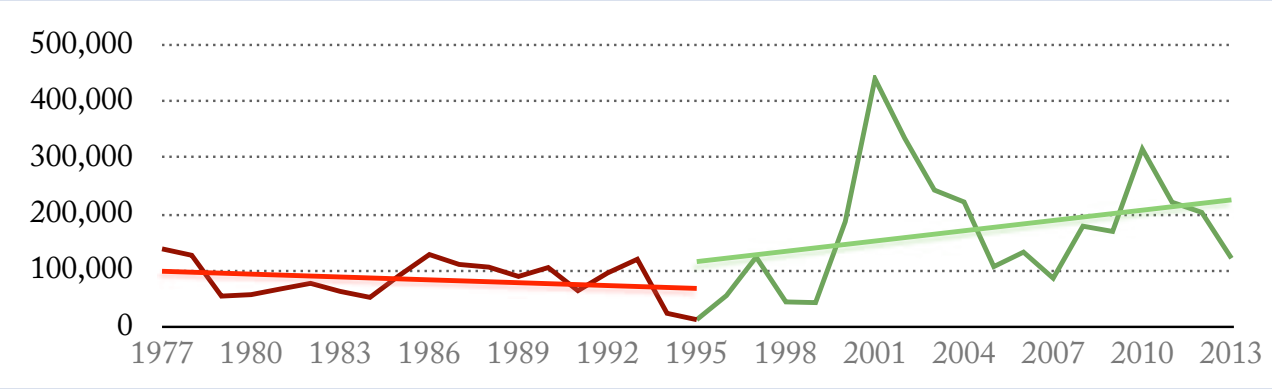
Hells Canyon Dam. Photo by Julie Carter.

Columbia River Salmon Returns

1977–2013

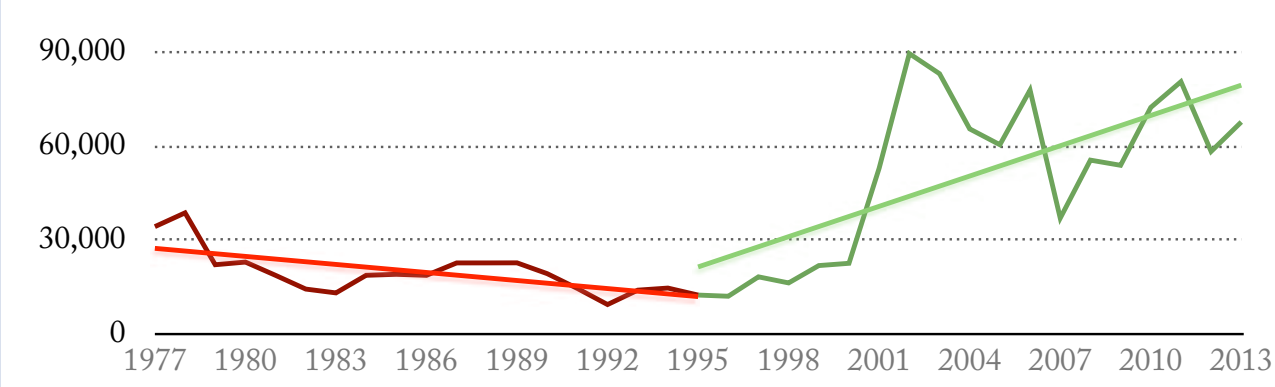
Upriver Spring Chinook Run

1977: **138,400** 2013: **121,700** Smallest run: **12,792 (1995)** Largest run: **439,885 (2001)**



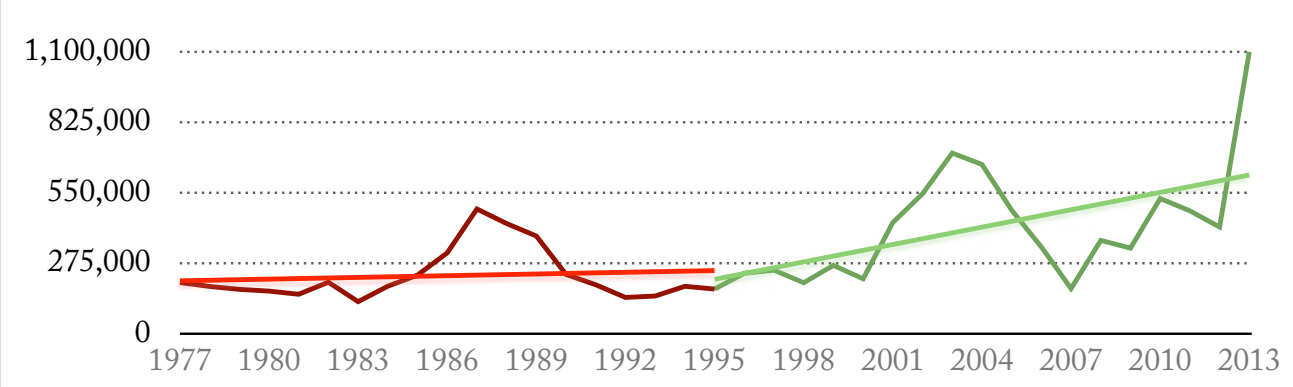
Upriver Summer Chinook Run

1977: **34,300** 2013: **67,700** Smallest run: **9,428 (1992)** Largest run: **89,548 (2002)**



Upriver Fall Chinook Run

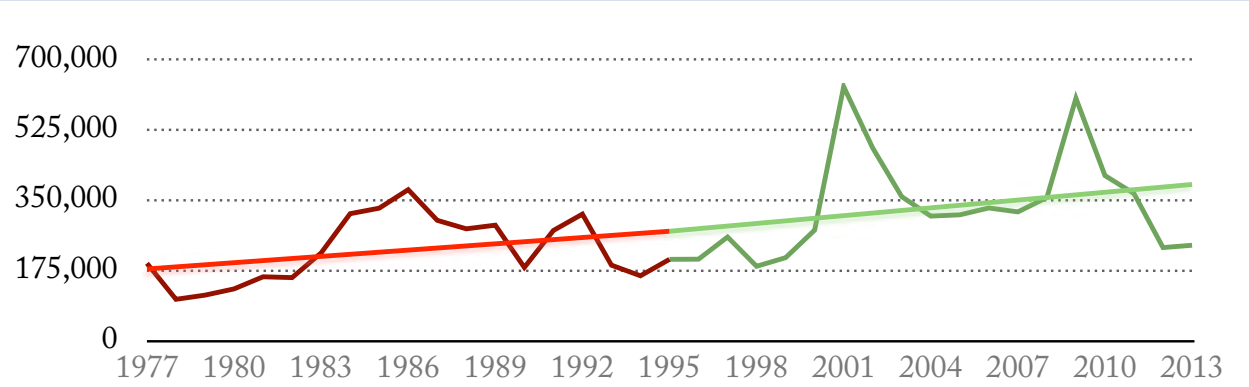
1977: **199,700** 2013: **1,100,000** Smallest run: **125,200 (1983)** Largest run: **1,100,000 (2013)**



*Data and trendlines in **RED** are PRIOR to 1995. **GREEN** represents data and trends AFTER 1995 (the year the tribes began implementing Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit, their integrated salmon restoration plan). Since 1995, the overall decline of Columbia River salmon has been halted.*

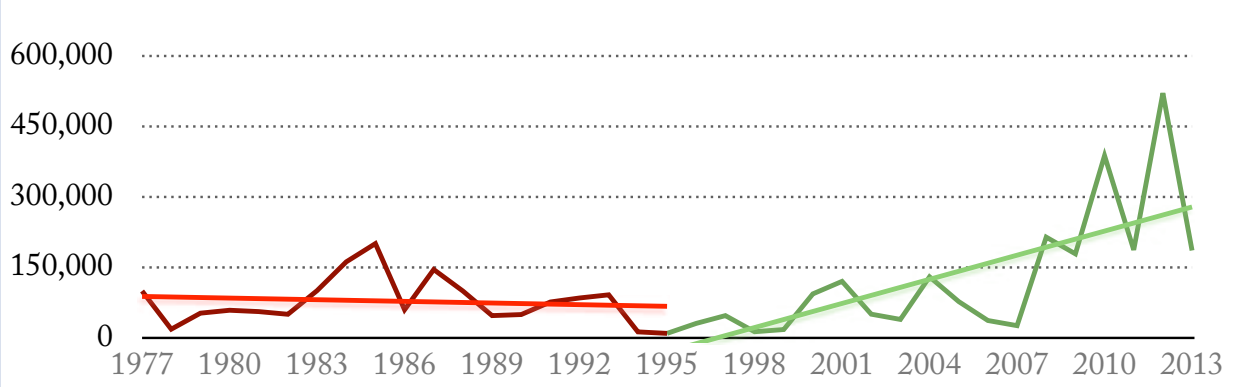
Summer Steelhead Run (over Bonneville Dam)

1977: **191,728** 2013: **236,553** Smallest run: **102,347 (1978)** Largest run: **630,230 (2001)**



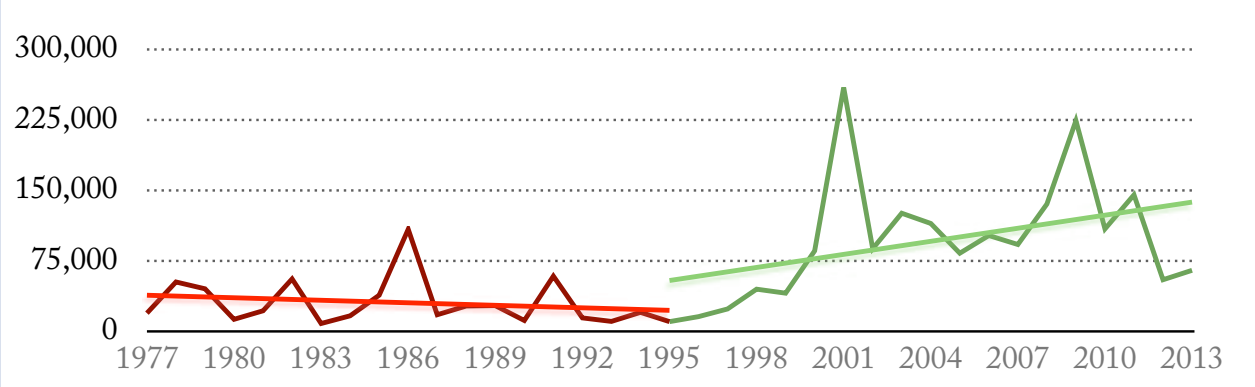
Sockeye Run

1977: **99,829** 2013: **186,100** Smallest run: **9,667 (1992)** Largest run: **386,524 (2010)**



Coho Run

1977: **19,408** 2013: **65,000** Smallest run: **10,389 (1983)** Largest run: **259,518 (2001)**



Protect Treaty Fishing Rights

CRITFC has lawyers, policy analysts, and an enforcement team working to ensure that tribal treaty rights are protected. All of these activities are done in careful coordination with and under the direction of our member tribes.

When the Spring Chinook Run is Late

Spring chinook are the first salmon to return each year and are essential in the tribes' First Food ceremonies. "As Indian people, the first salmon is the sign that we made it through the winter and that these sacred fish have returned to nourish and sustain us another year," said Gerald Lewis, 2011-2012 CRITFC Chairman and Yakama Tribal Council member.

Every fishing season begins with the ceremonial harvest of spring chinook. Before subsistence and commercial fishing starts, the First Food celebrations must be conducted. The timing of these feasts matches the arrival of the salmon to each longhouse. The feasts move upriver with the fish. These feasts usually occur during April.

In an attempt to see that longhouses and churches have the needed spring chinook for First Salmon feasts, the four tribes allow ceremonial fisheries to start in late March. But in 2011 and 2012 the number of spring chinook in the river during late March (and early April) was small and some longhouses ran short. The recent trend is for spring chinook to return later than they have historically as was the case in 2011 and 2012.

Late returns create problems. Spiritual leaders are trying to plan what for many tribal members is the most important traditional religious ceremony of the year. Fish managers are trying to set fair and responsible fishing regulations. Both know that tribal members face more dangerous fishing conditions if the season is pushed forward later in spring when river flows are higher.

In 2011 the late returning spring chinook eventually did come back in the numbers predicted, but in 2012 they returned in fewer numbers than predicted.

Later-timed returns may be one of the effects of climate change.

Summer and Fall Fisheries Were Strong

Despite the continuing national economic downturn that began in 2008, the summer and fall season fishing seasons of 2011 and 2012 were successful both in number of fish harvested and in economic benefits to tribal fishers.

Both years of summer fishing provided good opportunities to harvest upriver summer chinook and sockeye commercially and for subsistence. For the fall fisheries, 2011 was much better than 2012.

Tribal Fisheries Total Harvest

	2011	2012
Summer chinook	20,600	7,800
Sockeye†	12,800	45,300
Fall chinook	130,000	83,000
Steelhead	27,000	15,000
Coho	24,000	7,000

†An estimated 132 sockeye in 2011 and 45 in 2012 were from the Snake River; the rest were from the upper Columbia.

Prices were high during the summer and fall commercial fishing periods, even for tules (a type of fall chinook). The 2011 commercial fall fishery was one of the best in terms of economic benefits to the tribal fishing community, and 2012 was almost as good. Tribal participation in the fishery—measured by the number of nets in the river—continued the higher trend observed since 2006.

Tribal Sovereignty Protected

During the 2011 Oregon State Legislature, Senate Bill 412 was introduced to address the jurisdictional void created when the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled in the case of *Oregon v. Kurtz* that tribal police officers were not "peace officers" according to state law. This finding had to be addressed as the ramifications meant that tribal police officers would have no authority to arrest non-Indians or cite them into state court the way other state and local police officers can. This appellate court ruling created a public safety emergency on reservation lands and communities, including along the Columbia River.

The tribes strongly supported Senate Bill 412, which was passed by the Oregon legislature and signed by Governor Kitzhaber. The enacted legislation provides authorized tribal police officers with certain powers and protection as provided to other Oregon law enforcement officers. Since CRITFC's sovereign member tribes commission the CRITFC enforcement officers, the new law enhances officer effectiveness by restoring the ability to cite non-Indians into state court for criminal violations occurring in Oregon.

Oregon became the second state, after Arizona, to enact such legislation. In 2012 CRITFC officers secured statewide certification.

Columbia River BIA Law Enforcement Authority Transferred to CRITFC

CRITFC was awarded a PL 93-638 BIA law enforcement contract to provide public safety services for all in-lieu and treaty fishing access sites in the Zone 6 area. BIA's transfer of the Columbia River enforcement program to CRITFC included funding for two officers to focus on the in-lieu and

▶ *CRITFE officers taking the intertribal oath of service, administered by CRITFC Executive Director Paul Lumley.*

treaty fishing access sites.

The Enforcement division now has three offices in the 150-mile stretch of the Columbia River comprising Zone 6. Its headquarters are in Hood River. Newer facilities are located near The Dalles and Boardman, Oregon.

Legal Steelhead Sales

CRITFC convinced the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in 2012 to change the state's administrative rules to allow non-tribal wholesale buyers to retail tribally caught steelhead. This activity was already legal in Washington and in Idaho as was the direct sale of steelhead.

New Fishing Site Maintenance Department

Operating and maintaining the in-lieu and other fishing access sites is crucial to preserving the treaty reserved rights to fish at the tribes' usual and accustomed places. Without access to sites and places to put in fishing boats, these rights are diminished. When CRITFC first took on this responsibility, it was delegated to the existing Finance & Operations Department. Over time, it became evident that the effort required management autonomy in order to provide the level of service and required attention demanded. In 2011, the site maintenance team was spun off into its own department: the Fishing Site Maintenance Department. The department's crew has the responsibility of maintaining 31 sites along the 150-mile stretch of the Columbia River where tribal members fish. The new department began a three-year major clean-up plan during fall/winter 2011-12 and is slated for completion in fall/winter 2013-14.

Indian Preference in Workforce

In 2011 out of 116 (112 in 2012) full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees:

- 49 are Indian (42% of workforce), 30 from CRITFC member tribes (25% of workforce).
- Most temporary and/or part-time positions have been filled by tribal members.
- Five seasonal temporary positions were converted to full-time status; all were Indians.
- One Indian and one non-native are on-call temporary employees.

Share Salmon Culture

CRITFC seeks to share the unique salmon cultures of its member tribes to help increase awareness and instill a respect for and desire to protect salmon.

Sharing this information and as well as other issues such as the nature of treaty fishing rights, tribal restoration activities, and lamprey and sturgeon protection helps to ensure that future generations will enjoy the rights and resources that have been central to tribal cultures in this region since time immemorial.

Salmon Camp

The Salmon Camp experience is a key component of CRITFC's overall workforce development goal. Native American youth are greatly underrepresented among students of postsecondary education, especially in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects. Fewer than half of Native American youth in the Pacific and Northwestern regions of the United States graduate from high school. Although Native Americans make up 1.5% of the U.S. population, they account for only 0.7% of students graduating with bachelor's degrees in science.

Salmon Camp provides an enriching program agenda that promotes interest in STEM subjects by engaging students in culturally relevant and practical activities by combining Western science with traditional ecological knowledge. With the assistance of tribal fisheries experts and tribal leaders, Salmon Campers participate in numerous hands-on activities using scientific tools and methods to collect and analyze data, and make applicable connections to real concerns their communities face. They learn about traditional uses of local native plants and roots, and how to identify edible, medicinal and ceremonial plants. Students also gained insight on what college and career options exist in the sciences and have many opportunities to speak with professionals about their jobs and educational pathways.

The second CRITFC Tribal Salmon Camp was held July 5-9, 2011 for eighteen CRITFC tribal students at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry's (OMSI) Hancock Field Station located near Fossil, Oregon. OMSI's Hancock Field Station

Quotes from Salmon Campers

"The foods gave a promise to us and our promise is to keep them safe and they rely on us and we have to protect them."

"What salmon means to me culturally is that we need to carry on the traditions and we need to keep our promise to the food."

"Watersheds are important to salmon because creeks go into water and then go to the river and then go to the ocean."

"Salmon means to me like health and I want to say thank you to salmon for taking care of me by feeding me and health. Salmon is family to me and it means a lot to me."

"We pollute rivers, streams, and lakes affecting the salmon's habitat and salmon. We build a lot of dams and we shouldn't do that. Save the salmon!"

"Today we were looking and studying plants. We were all doing something. I was writing. It was cool. We found mostly mustards."

"A lamprey is one the oldest fish. They haven't changed for 500,000 years."

"Salmon give their lives so we can eat it or do other stuff with it so we must respect it or it will have sacrificed itself for no reason."

facility is surrounded by the Clarno Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs' Pine Creek Conservation Area.

The third annual CRITFC Tribal Salmon Camp, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, was held from August 6-10, 2012 for twenty CRITFC tribal middle school students. The camp was held at the Intermountain Education Service District's Buck Creek Cabin area, approximately 45 minutes east of Pendleton, OR. The Buck Creek Cabin area is surrounded by the Umatilla National Forest with a creek nearby so this was an excellent location for the Camp.

CRITFC plans to continue to host Salmon Camps in the future at each of the four member tribes' reservations. This continuation of the program is a key part of CRITFC's workforce development initiative and will prepare and inspire tribal youth to attend college and pursue careers in STEM fields of work.

Protecting Our Archeological Heritage

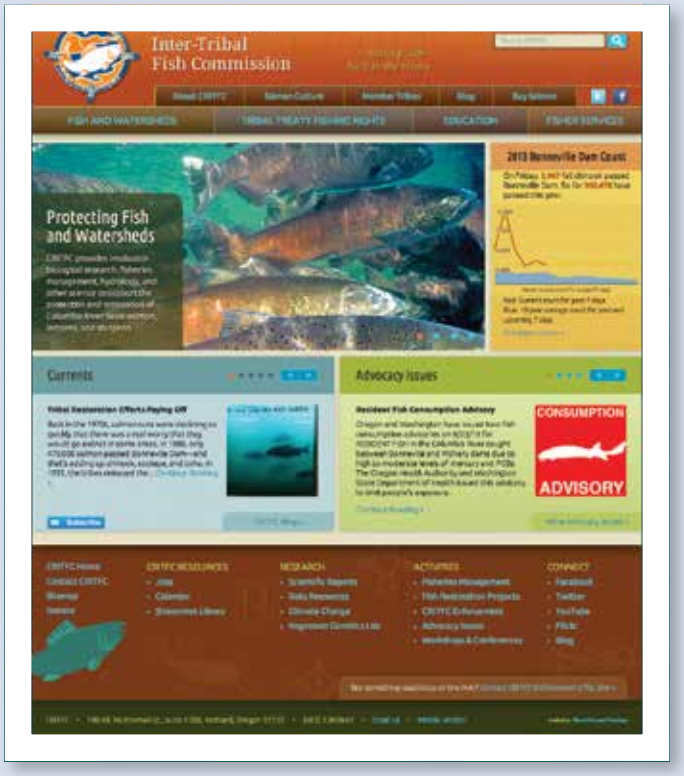
CRITFC fisheries police officers enforce the four tribes' fishing regulations and protect tribal resources such as the fish and fishing places, as one would expect. They also serve as protectors of the tribes' rich archeological heritage in the Columbia River Gorge.

In 2011 CRITFC officers responded to reports of people picking up items or digging in culturally sensitive areas. Warnings were issued. In one instance, a search warrant resulted in arrests and seizure of artifacts. An investigation into the presence of three dig locations in the Bonneville pool area is ongoing.

Over the past two years, CRITFC officers conducted six separate trainings on archeology for

law enforcement and those investigating archeological crimes. Participants at the training seminars included Morrow County, Oregon, District Attorneys, personnel from Yakama Cultural Resources, police officers from the Umatilla and Warm Springs tribes, Jefferson County, Oregon officers, U.S. Corps of Engineers, The Dalles Police Department, Colville Tribe Natural Resource Enforcement, Burns Paiute Tribal Police Department, Nez Perce fish and wildlife officers, Coeur d'Alene tribal police, National Park Service, Idaho State Parks, U. S. Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Police, and CRITFC Fishing Site Maintenance Department, among others.

The archeological protection work CRITFC performs holds the promise that the history of the area's ancient tribal fishing culture can be remembered and studied for generations to come.



The new CRITFC homepage.

Using New Media

A new CRITFC website went online in December 2012 after seven months of work. The new website uses the latest web technologies.

In the "Blog" section, visitors will find the lastest information including news releases, Dipnetter articles and more.

In "Fisher Services" tribal fishers can read fishing announcements and other important information, find out about fishing access sites, and get news and help from the salmon marketing program.

The "Buy Salmon" section is for those interested in buying Columbia River Indian-caught salmon. It has fish availability information, fish buying locations, and instructions on to how gut or filet a fish.

A fish passage count tool was deployed on the CRITFC website to display almost real-time counts at each mainstem dam and graph fish count data.

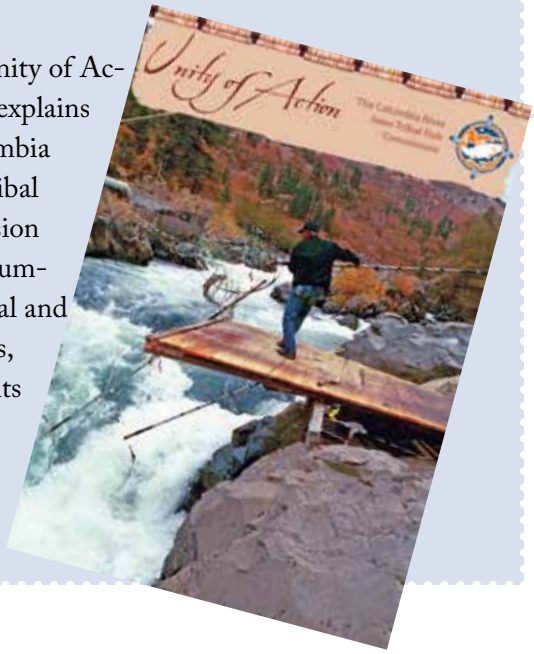
Social media is a major part of the redesign, with CRITFC's Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr pages connected to the site.

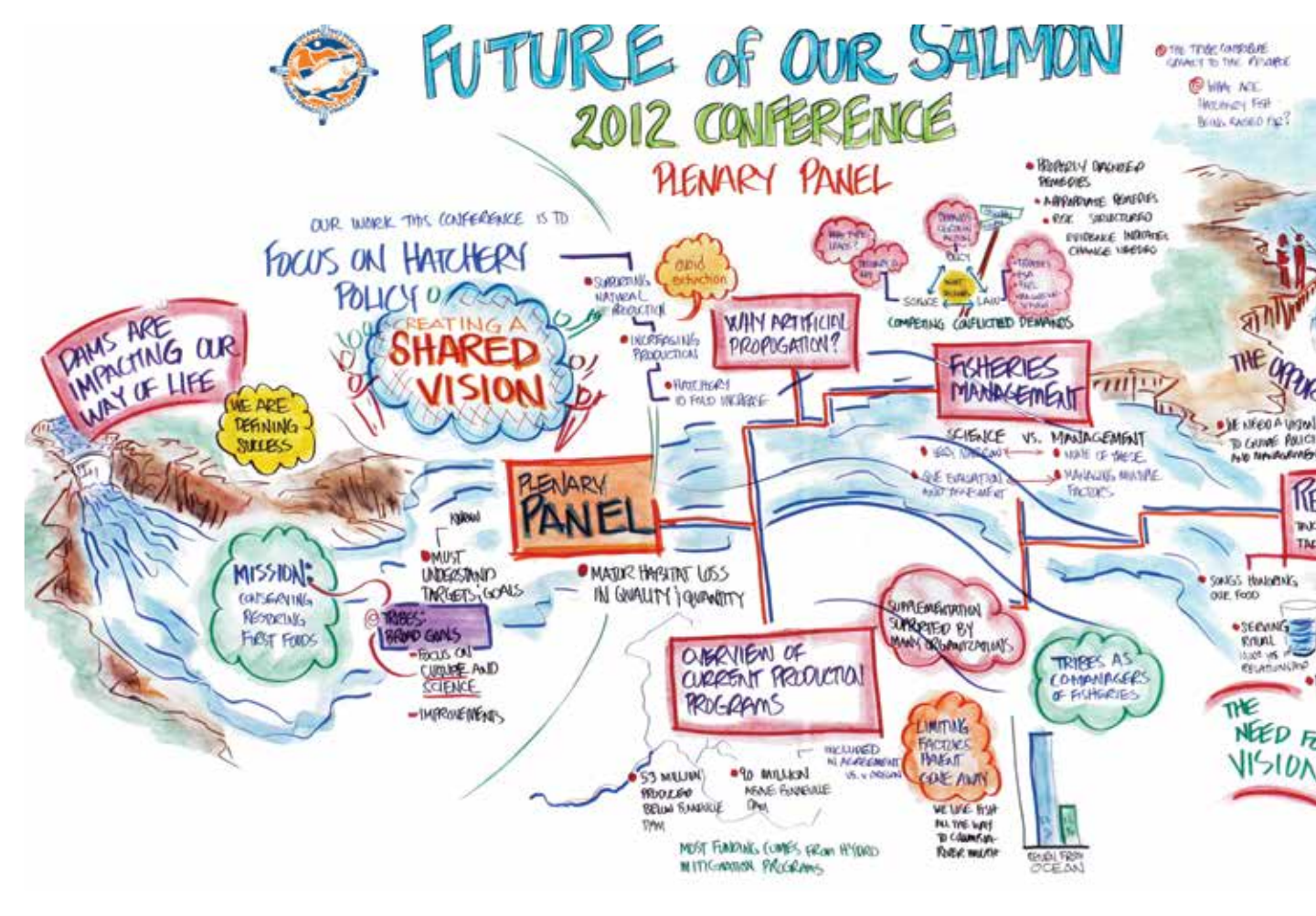
The site is also optimized for smart phones. By visiting it on an iPhone or Android phone, a simplified version of the site will make using it easier to get information like current fish counts and fish species allowable for sale.

A new CRITFC channel on YouTube features historic and current videos on topics of related to tribal fishing rights and traditional tribal fishing.

Find CRITFC at www.critfc.org, visit on Facebook, or have conversation on Twitter.

The new Unity of Action brochure explains how the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is structured, summarizes its legal and cultural origins, and describes its work.





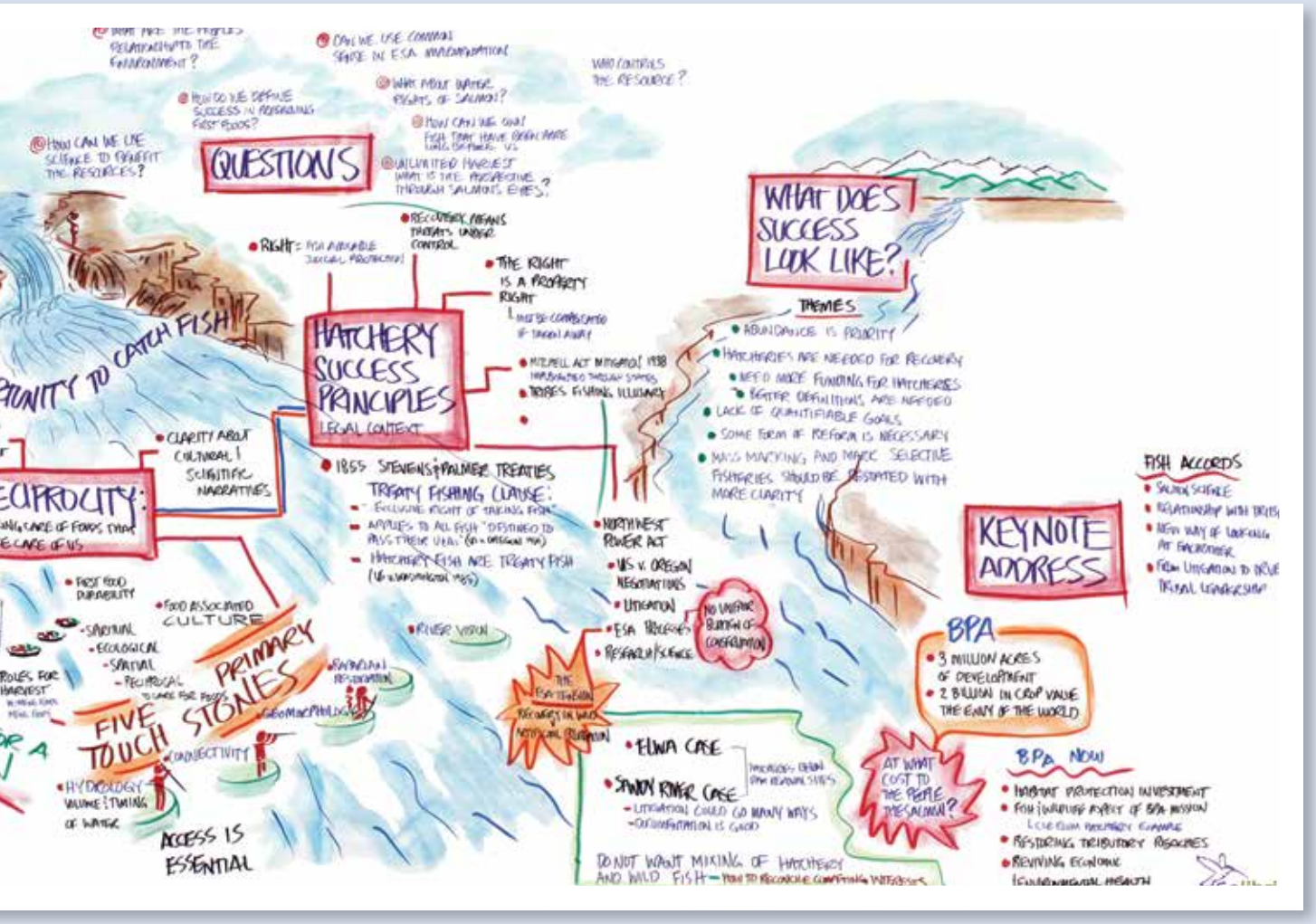
Future of Our Salmon Conferences Highlight Tribal Perspective on Salmon Restoration and Hatchery Policy

CRITFC hosted its first Future of Our Salmon conferences in 2011 and 2012 to share the four tribes' vision for salmon restoration. Attending the 2011 conference were more than 250 participants with an investment in Columbia Basin salmon recovery. At the two-day conference in Portland, entitled "A Vision of Restoration in the Columbia Basin," participants were exposed to the tribes' gravel-to-gravel concept of management and treated to analyses of many critical aspects of the salmon life cycle.

The 2012 conference stepped into more contested territory with a program focused on hatchery policies. Yet according to a survey of most of the 200 plus attendees and panelists, hatcheries have a role in recovering salmon populations in the Columbia Basin. The survey conducted during the two-day event showed 96 percent support for using hatcheries in recovery strategies and 32 percent believe that "sometimes" hatcheries can be useful. But as tribal leaders and biologists noted during their presentations, there's still plenty of controversy.

As panelists indicated, tribal and some state programs use hatcheries as fish nurseries to raise young salmon for outplanting in the wild so that adult salmon return to spawn in the wild and over time increase the number of wild fish. This method is also called supplementation.

Tribal, state and Canadian First Nation biologists



A "graphic recording" of the 2012 conference plenary session. Graphic Recording is a real-time dynamic visual approach that captures meeting information so that it creates more impact and is more meaningful.

gave attendees "tours" of five case study programs that use this technology: Naturally Produced Chinook on the Middle Fork Salmon, Okanogan Nation Alliance Sockeye Reintroduction, Imnaha Spring Chinook Hatchery Program, Mid-Columbia Coho Hatchery Program and Snake River Fall Chinook Hatchery Program. Information about other tribal hatchery programs was also available.

Other fish experts believe that salmon raised in hatcheries have a negative effect on wild fish, particularly if hatchery-reared fish and wild fish interbreed. Discussed during the conference were the results of a recently published study suggesting such conclusion may not be warranted. The Nez Perce Tribe's Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement Project discovered hatchery-reared salmon that spawned with wild salmon had the same reproductive success as wild salmon. Using DNA collected over 13 years, the study found that hatchery fish were as successful at mating in the wild as wild fish.

The differences over hatchery policies highlighted CRITFC Executive Director Paul Lumley's call for the region to find a common vision for salmon restoration.

Attending both Future of Our Salmon conferences were tribal, federal and state officials and staff; electric utilities; Indian, sport, and commercial fishers; environmental organizations; and the public.

Provide Fisher Services

CRITFC provides a variety of services directly to Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce fishers. These services provide valuable resources to the fishers that help them exercise their treaty-protected rights to fish and carry on the tradition of making a living from fishing.

A Focus on Safety Highlights the 2011 & 2012 Indian Fishers Expos

CRITFC held the second and third annual Columbia River Indian Fishers Expos, attracting about 200 fishers, leaders and community members to each event. The 2011 and 2012 expos were held in July in Hood River, Oregon and focused on personal safety and quality food handling. Attendees learned about cold-water survival techniques, boating safety, maintaining and repairing boat engines, basic fiberglass boat repair, food quality and safety, and salmon marketing strategies. Many also took the class required to become certified food handlers.

A 2011 Expo highlight was the U.S. Coast Guard demonstration of a helicopter rescue in the Columbia River. In 2012 Washington SeaGrant and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement Department conducted a simulated boat rescue.

The mayors and other officials of The Dalles, Mosier, White Salmon and Hood River came out to the Expo to mingle with tribal leaders and fishers. "To have four mayors from the surrounding community turn out and support us and the tribal fishery speaks volumes about the relationships we are building in the Columbia River Gorge," Paul Lumley, CRITFC executive director, said in 2011. "We have come a long way in the past few years, and I'm tremendously excited about where we are going and how we can work together."

The Expos also featured a small trade show of vendors with displays on water safety, packaging

A river rescue demonstration conducted by the Coast Guard at the 2011 Columbia River Indian Fishers Expo.

materials, fishing supply businesses and tribal crafts. Vendors included the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The Dalles Marine Supply, England Marine Supply and others.

Some 2011 personal safety indicators:

- Over 100 fishers now own modern self-inflating lifejackets. Over 30 were distributed to during the 2011 Expo.
- A series of cold-water survival classes for fishers were held; 33 fishers attended one cold-water survival class that included a first responder's first aid component.
- Emergency personal locator beacons were loaned to fishers.
- Nearly 100 tribal fishers have attended personal safety classes held in collaboration with Washington Sea Grant.
- Tribal fishers participated a fiberglass and boat engine repair workshop at the Celilo In-lieu Site. Top experts in engine and fiberglass repair presented information on how to keep boats afloat and running. Some fishers brought their boats and motors to get advice on repair and maintenance.

Some 2011 success indicators for marketing Indian-caught salmon:

- CRITFC-sponsored HACCP training attracted another 23 tribal participants. More than 300 fishers are now HACCP-trained. [HACCP stands for Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points and is a systematic approach to food safety.]
- Fishers and CRITFC staff participated in an episode of "Hook Line and Dinner" that featured Columbia River sturgeon.
- 27 fishers submitted applications (in 2011) for four grants to help recipients set up a quality over-the-bank sales booth.
- Participated in ATNI's new regional salmon marketing initiative and was noted as leader in food safety and marketing efforts.
- 33 fishers took a class in the fundamentals of canning.

The Four Tribes Formalize Tribal FishCo, LLC

In 2010, the four tribes formally created an intertribal fish company, marking the first time they have joined in a business enterprise. The new entity, Tribal FishCo LLC (FishCo), is guided by a Limited Liability Agreement, which sets forth the roles and responsibilities of the four tribes including the appointment by each tribe of two representatives to serve on the company's Board of Advisors. Later that year, FishCo contracted with the Bureau of Indian Affairs via a 638 Agreement to provide management over the fish processing plant located near East White Salmon, Washington. CRITFC assisted the four tribes with the formation of the new entity including the development of preliminary business planning information. The plant's operations provide

Wilson and Roxanne Begay getting ice at the Tribal FishCo fish processing plant at Bingen. The plant sells flake ice directly to fishers as part of its business.

an opportunity for the tribes to take greater control of their natural resources and also to become a player in the marketplace. When fully operational, Columbia River tribal-caught fish will be processed in a facility that is compliant with federally food safety regulations, which will aid access to a larger market base.

The Corps of Engineers built the 80' x 100' plant which houses a commercial blast freezer, refrigerator, holding freezer and an ice machine capable of producing about ten tons of ice a day. During both the 2011 and 2012 fall seasons, FishCo coordinated with an experienced seafood processor to conduct limited fish processing operations to work through the logistics of operating the plant and to also provide information for wastewater treatment purposes. An agreement to use the City of Bingen's wastewater treatment facility requires a greater understanding of the discharges needing to be treated from the plant's operations before the agreement can be finalized. Both seasons, the White Salmon plant produced flake ice in the facility's high-capacity ice machine, which helped the fisher's maintain the quality of their catch and to receive higher prices. Approximately 1 million pounds of ice was distributed to the fishers over this period. Besides ice, FishCo hired temporary employees to process fish and provide bookkeeping functions.

With assistance from the tribes' economic development personnel, FishCo can continue evaluating business model alternatives, including capitalization and the steps to finalize the user agreement with the City of Bingen for wastewater treatment. For the fall 2012 summer and fall commercial fisheries seasons, FishCo sold ice to the tribal fishers at cost, allowing FishCo to recoup expenses while helping fishers maintain a quality product.

Two More Fishing Access Sites Completed

With the Wyeth and Dallesport fishing sites completed in 2011-2012, all of the 31 sites have been constructed or transferred pursuant to P.L. 100-581. Tribal and CRITFC representatives worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for over two decades to achieve this replacement of some of the usual and accustomed fishing places protected by the tribes' 1855 treaties but inundated by the Columbia River dams.

The Wyeth Fishing Access Site

3-year Fishing Site Maintenance and Renovation Project

Hundreds of Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce fishers rely on the 31 tribal fishing access sites along the Columbia River during fishing seasons.

Operating and maintaining the sites is crucial to preserving the treaty reserved rights to fish at the tribes' usual and accustomed places. Without access to sites and places to put in fishing boats, these rights are diminished. When CRITFC first took on this responsibility, it was delegated to the existing Finance & Operations Department. Over time, it became evident that the effort required management autonomy in order to provide the level of service and constant attention this operation demanded. In


WASHINES

2011, the site maintenance team was spun off into its own department: the Fishing Site Maintenance Department. The department's crew has the responsibility of maintaining 31 sites along the 150-mile stretch of the Columbia River where tribal members fish.

These sites, however, are showing both their age and the heavy use given them by tribal members. They now need more than routine maintenance.

"We want to keep them as safe and useful to the fishers as possible," said Michael Broncheau, manager of the Fishing Site Maintenance Department.

The CRITFC In-lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Site Committee, which was formed by CRITFC action in February 2011, initiated a three-year cleanup and renovation plan for the most used sites. The tribal councils of the four member tribes reviewed and approved the plan. In 2011 the CRITFC crews began the extensive, three-year project involving in-depth cleanup, repairs, upgrades and replacements at 17 of the treaty fishing access sites along the Columbia River.

Department crews completed work at the Preachers Eddy, Pasture Point, LePage, Celilo, Stanley Rock and North Bonneville access sites in 2011-12. They completed work at Three-Mile Canyon, Rufus, Roosevelt, Maryhill, White Salmon and Lyle in 2012-13. Crow Butte, Alderdale, Pine Creek, Stanley Rock, North Bonneville, Wyeth and Dallesport will be done in 2013-14.

A Study of Housing on the River

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers agreed in 2012 to initiate a study of housing along the Columbia River as requested by resolutions of the four tribal governments. The tribes formed an intertribal housing committee to interact with the Army Corps of Engineers and address other housing matters on the river. CRITFC is providing technical support for this endeavor.

Most tribal communities living along the river have yet to recover from construction and operation of Columbia River dams. Celilo Village was the one exception, being completely rebuilt by the Corps over the past seven years, but it is only the beginning of this federal obligation.

Site Dispute Resolution Protocol

The CRITFC Law Enforcement Committee has observed a steady increase over recent years in the number of site disputes occurring along the Columbia River. Often the first reaction fishers have is to contact CRITFC Enforcement, but this takes already limited resources off the river. For this reason, CRITFC and the member tribes developed a five-step protocol for fishers to use when dealing with site disputes.

The five-step dispute resolution process, developed in 2011, involves communication between those in conflict and, if that is unsuccessful, contacting designated tribal personnel who gather information, such as site registration documents and maps, that will enable decisions to be made at the policy level.

Celilo Village, recently renovated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Photo courtesy Corps of Engineers.

◀ *Yakama Nation Housing Authority Chairwoman Elena Bassett and CRITFC Enforcement Chief Davis Washines at the Bonneville Treaty Fishing Access Site.*

CRITFC Expenditures By Funding Source

Federal funds	2011	2012
Bureau of Indian Affairs	5,879,613	5,885,068
Bureau of Reclamation	27,088	-
Bonneville Power Administration	8,177,064	9,403,454
Environmental Protection Agency	154,933	209,164
US Fish & Wildlife Service	23,969	38,605
US Department of Agriculture	71,562	2,437
US Department of Commerce	1,467,135	1,445,565
subtotal	**15,801,364**	**16,984,293**
Non-federal funds		
Corps of Engineers/LEDS	136,821	156,534
Pacific Salmon Commission	(422)	74,000
OMSI-Salmon Camp	18,750	-
Idaho Department of Fish & Game	1,158,928	609,237
Kintama Research Service	11,960	-
PUD	-	31,697
First Nations	-	20,010
Wildhorse Foundation	-	334
subtotal	**1,326,037**	**891,812**
Total	**17,127,401**	**17,876,105**

CRITFC Expenditures By Activity [1]

	2011	2012
General Government	2,644,265	3,400,630
Executive relations	784,917	734,759
Outreach and education	48,267	49,992
Fisheries management	1,790,472	1,834,290
Scientific research and evaluation	6,551,363	6,406,327
Policy development and government relations	589,427	824,973
Law enforcement	1,782,380	1,612,140
Watershed	1,986,021	2,077,203
Salmon marketing	381,684	149,921
Treaty fishing site operation & maintenance	568,605	785,870
Total	**17,127,401**	**17,876,105**

Payment for Subcontract Services to Member Tribes (included above)

	2011	2012
Direct to Yakama	629,753	689,576
Direct to Warm Springs	626,290	381,514
Direct to Umatilla	366,354	418,409
Direct to Nez Perce	707,753	979,008

[1] *Expenditures by Activity may vary due to expenditures relating to capital outlays, debt service, investment income, and miscellaneous expenses.*

Putting fish back in the rivers

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
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