



September 2010

Randy Settler, YAKAMA, demonstrating how to make slush ice. The presentation was one of over 30 that took place during the two-day Indian Fisher's Expo in Hood River.



First Indian Fisher's Expo a Success

Over 200 people flocked to the Hood River Inn on July 30 and 31 for CRITFC's first Columbia River Indian Fisher's Expo. Fishers from the Umatilla, Yakama, Nez Perce and Warm Springs tribes came out for the two-day event that included seminars and classes on boat and river safety, cold water survival, boat engine repair, food handling techniques, and salmon marketing.

Some tribal fishers used the Expo to take a food handling certification class and browse the numerous vendors that supply equipment and services to the fishers on the Columbia River.

"CRITFC is here to serve as a resource to the tribes, tribal fishers, and tribal communities," said Paul Lumley, CRITFC's executive director. "Everyone seemed to really enjoy the fishers expo and we're excited about being able to provide this service to the tribal fishers on an annual basis."

The expo was well received by both fishers and staff. The event also offered a venue for fishers to express concern over several enforcement issues on the river. These included on-going drug and alcohol use and violence. River safety and life jacket use were also hot topics of discussion. Some tribal leaders stated that the tribes should make wearing life jackets mandatory for fishers.



“CRITFC is here to serve as a resource to the tribes, tribal fishers and tribal communities.”

– Paul Lumley, CRITFC’s executive director



- 4 Henry Begay learning about the dangers of cold water at the Corps of Engineers booth.
- 2 Blaine Parker from CRITFC sharing boat cleaning techniques that help prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species.
- 1 Larry Blais conducts a boat engine maintenance class. The class was one of the most popular ones offered at the Expo.
- # Fishers inspecting a refrigerated trailer that was on display.



CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE: Fishers appreciated the opportunity to hear testimonials about people’s actual experiences with river dangers and safety. They also expressed interest in additional information on safety equipment besides life jackets. Tribal fishers did express concerns about the comfort of lifejackets and whether life jacket designs are compatible with working with gillnets.

The feedback on the event from fishers, tribal leaders, and vendors has been very positive.





- ↑ Some of the Salmon Camp students atop “The Pillars” rock formation during an arid lands ecology hike.
- ← Felix Eaglespeaker, WARM SPRINGS, searches for macroinvertebrates during the stream ecology session.
- ↓ Angela Heay, UMATILLA, tests water quality with an OMSI scientist.

CRITFC Salmon Camp

Eighteen middle school youth from the Warm Springs, Umatilla, Yakama and Nez Perce tribes gathered at OMSI’s Hancock Field Station in the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument from August 1-6. They came for CRITFC’s first ever Salmon Camp. The pilot project was designed to help tribal youth learn more about fish biology and environmental science from professional researchers in a variety of fields and become familiar with advanced technologies used in the field. During the week-long camp, students took hikes highlighting arid lands ecology, spent time in a stream learning about stream ecology and water quality, held an environmental forum to debate the many aspects of salmon restoration, and much more.





Paul Lumley

Looking ahead to the fall fishery

critfc executive director's message

This summer has been a year of "firsts" for CRITFC. CRITFC hosted the first Columbia River Indian Fisher's Expo and its first ever CRITFC Salmon Camp. This has also been a good year for salmon returns. Sockeye have come back to the Columbia Basin in record numbers and this year's steelhead run is second only to 2001's run. So, with the summer numbers looking up, what about the fall returns?

The 2010 fall chinook fishery is shaping up to be similar to recent years. The pre-season forecast for up-river brights and

coho predicts average numbers while the steelhead run is expected to be large. Based on these forecasts, the tribes are anticipating a 25% harvest rate on up-river brights and a 20% harvest rate on B-run steelhead. In all, we're expecting the fishing opportunities for tribal fishers to be similar to recent years.



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