

# The Dipnetter

News of the River from the  
Columbia River Inter-Tribal  
Fish Commission



September 2012

## THIRD ANNUAL CRITFC SALMON CAMP

KATHERINE WALKER AND LAURA GEPHART, CRITFC WATERSHED DEPARTMENT



Twenty middle school students from the Yakama, Umatilla, Nez Perce and Warm Springs tribes participated in the overnight 2012 CRITFC Salmon Camp August 6-10 near Pendleton, Oregon in the Umatilla National Forest. The Salmon Camp was held in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Funding was provided by NOAA Fisheries and the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

The Salmon Camp participants were taught science, technology,

engineering and math (STEM) skills through engagement in culturally relevant, hands-on activities that combined Western science with traditional ecological knowledge. With the assistance of tribal fisheries experts and leaders, the participants conducted salmon-related field tasks and applied the results to real concerns faced by their communities. The campers also had opportunities to speak with guests and staff about their professions and explore educational and career pathways in

***Watershed and Fishery Lesson:** CTUIR fish technician Jeremiah Bonifer teaching the campers about the salmon lifecycle. Other CTUIR staff taught about lamprey, stream shocking, dip net construction and riparian habitat. They also learned about watersheds and made their own dioramas to take home the STEM subjects.*

CRITFC would like to thank all of the organizations and individuals who helped make the 2012 CRITFC Salmon Camp a true success, including

*—continued on next page*

—*Salmon Camp continued from first page*

Shawn McConnell, Marty Perez, Cary Watters, Larrita Riggs, Zachary Wong, Lisa Dubisar, Mitch Pond, Meghan Kearney, Nancy Pollot, Jeremiah Bonifer, Jerrid Weaskus, David Thompson Jr, David Wolf, Cheryl Shippentower, Teddi Bronson, Joan Burnside, Mike McCloud, Ronald Pond, Polly Olsen, Sam McKay, Roberta Kirk, West's Rentals, Doug's Septic Services, Edie Allsott and the Intermountain Education Service District. We would like to offer special thanks to Wenix Red Elk (Umatilla Tribe) for her great assistance in the planning, coordinating, and facilitating of the Salmon Camp.

See photos and details on the next page. 🐟

## Fishing Site Clean-up Closures

MICHAEL BRONCHEAU, CRITFC FISHING SITE MAINT. MANAGER

Last winter, 6 treaty fishing access sites were closed for extensive clean-up and repairs. The 2012-2013 clean-up will begin in November. During each closure, fishing site maintenance crew will remove trash, abandoned property, and temporary structures; repair facilities, plumbing, and electrical systems; maintain the landscaping; and other repairs as necessary. The closure schedule is listed below:

- **Roosevelt (Nov 5-16, 2012)**
- **White Salmon (Nov 19-30, 2012)**
- **Maryhill (Dec 3-21, 2012)**
- **Rufus (Dec 24-31, 2012)**
- **Lyle (Jan 1-18, 2013)**
- **Three-mile Canyon (Jan 21-25, 2013)**

While a site is closed for the maintenance, all other access sites, including the five in-lieu sites, will remain open for use and will be maintained on

a normal weekly schedule.

Fishers using any of these access sites are encouraged to be aware of the closure schedule and remove their personal and titled property to help speed the work along and prevent any unexpected losses. 🐟

## Fall Season Preview

STUART ELLIS, CRITFC FISH MGMT. BIOLOGIST

The fall fishery management period began on August 1. The harvest rates for fall season fisheries are outlined in the U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement. The harvest rates are based on the actual run sizes, not just the pre-season forecasts. The fall platform and hook-and-line fishery has been open for both subsistence and commercial use. The tribes had a sturgeon setline fishery in The Dalles pool which ended on August 11.

The tribes set their first three fall season gillnet fisheries. These are 6am Tuesday, August 21 to 6pm Thursday, August 23, 6am Monday, August 27 to 6pm Thursday, August 30, and 6am Tuesday, September 4 to 6pm Saturday, September 8. There is an 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction in all three openings. Other standard regulations including the standard Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary are in place. As the actual run sizes are updated, the tribes may modify or add fisheries, but the outlook is for chinook run sizes and fisheries pretty close to be what we have seen in recent years which should provide good opportunity to fish through to the end of September. We think that as fishers continue to take good care of their catch, that prices should stay fairly good throughout the fall season. 🐟

## CRITFC Officers and Commissioners

### UMATILLA



**Kathryn Brigham**, CRITFC chairwoman  
James Marsh · Mitch Pond  
Vince Sohappay · Chris Williams  
(541) 276-3165

### NEZ PERCE



**Joel Moffett**, CRITFC vice-chairman  
Brooklyn Baptiste · Roberta Bisbee  
Dan Kane · McCoy Oatman  
Samuel Penney · Allen Slickpoo Jr  
Silas Whitman · Marie Arthur  
Quintin Ellenwood · Erik Holt ·  
Herb Jackson · Timothy Wheeler  
(208) 843-2253

### WARM SPRINGS



**Bruce Jim**, CRITFC secretary  
Leslie Bill · Rafael Queahpama  
Ryan Smith · Emerson Squiemphen  
Donnie Winishut, Sr  
(541) 553-3257

### YAKAMA



**Gerald Lewis**, CRITFC treasurer  
Raymond Colfax · Richard George ·  
Johnny Jackson · Sam Jim Sr  
Virgil Lewis Sr · Wilbur Slockish Jr  
(509) 865-5121

# Salmon Camp 2012



*Cheryl Shippentower [left photo] and Wenix Red Elk [right photo] of the CTUIR with the campers after a climb up a summit to learn about traditional uses of local native plants. The campers learned how to identify edible, medicinal and ceremonial plants and had opportunities to do some gathering of their own.*



*Back at the campsite the campers helped prepare salmon to cook over the fire and then enjoyed a traditional First Foods dinner followed by singing, drumming and dancing provided by CTUIR cultural leaders.*

*Lisa Dubisar, Warm Springs fisheries biologist, leading a hands-on field activity on how to test water samples. The campers also learned why good water quality is important for salmon and a healthy ecosystem.*



*[left photo] Campers testing water samples. [right photo] The campers putting finishing touches on their field journals and posters before enjoying a farewell BBQ. They also learned about future college STEM options and how to make it happen from Polly Olsen of the University of Washington. Featured in this presentation was how education is crucial for future tribal leaders to keep their sovereignty and independence.*

*For more photos from the 2012 Salmon Camp, visit CRITFC's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/critfc](http://www.facebook.com/critfc)*



# The Dipnetter

Yakama • Warm Springs  
Umatilla • Nez Perce



## The Voice of the Fishers

### CRITFC Executive Director's Message

During the Fishers Expo in July, we passed out a survey to the fishers to get their feedback on some current topics that can potentially impact the river and tribal treaty fishing: the coal transport issue and the gillnet ban ballot initiative. We also took the opportunity to ask the fishers questions about what kinds of information they would like from CRITFC and how they would like it to be delivered.

The results of this survey confirmed that all you who depend on the river for your subsistence and livelihoods are just as concerned about coal transport and the possible gillnet ban as the tribal officials are. 89% of those surveyed opposed the gillnet ban and 83% felt that their tribe should actively oppose the initiative as well.

The coal questions revealed that 75% of those surveyed had their access to the river either often or occasionally affected by railroad traffic. Half of the responses reported witnessing debris, exhaust, or other items come off a train in transit. 72% were

either extremely concerned or very concerned about the possible increase in railroad traffic and potential environmental impact of transporting so much coal through the Columbia Gorge.

In the question of preferred method to receive information from CRITFC, text message announcements were tied with mailed announcements as the preferred primary or secondary delivery method. Another popular delivery method fishers would like to see further implemented was announcements and newsletters sent via email and a dedicated section on the CRITFC website for tribal fishers. We're currently working on a system to accomplish both of these requests.

Getting this information directly from the Indian fishers on issues that are important to them is invaluable to us. I would like to thank everyone who attended our Fishers Expo and for participating in this survey.



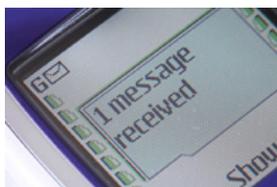
Paul Lumley  
YAKAMA



## The Dipnetter

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
729 NE Oregon, Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97232  
[www.critfc.org](http://www.critfc.org) • (503) 238-0667

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PORTLAND, OR  
PERMIT #11



Text "critfc"  
to the number  
55958 to start  
getting fishery  
announcements  
on your cell phone.

