

The Dipnetter

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



August 2013

FISHERIES UPDATE AND FORECAST

STUART ELLIS, CRITFC FISHERY SCIENTIST

SUMMER FISHERIES UPDATE

The upper Columbia summer chinook run size was a bit less than forecast and is expected to be about 65,000 at the mouth. Sockeye had an unusually late run timing and turned out to be just over the forecast run size. The final sockeye run may be close to 184,000 at the mouth.

There were 6 weekly commercial gillnet fisheries during the summer season with 21 days of fishing. This is the second largest number of days of gillnet fishing since 2004. Sales of platform and hook and line fish have also occurred for most of this summer season. Mesh restrictions were used successfully to avoid a situation where reaching the sockeye harvest rate limit constrained fishing for chinook.

The estimated harvest for the summer season is 13,000 chinook, 10,000 sockeye, and 3,500 steelhead.

The tribes did not harvest all of the fish they had intended for C&S use in the spring and decided to issue more C&S gillnet permits at the end of the summer season and in the beginning of the fall season. Tribal regulations do not allow fish harvested during permit fishing periods to be sold.

Selling Fish to the Public?

Please remember that fish in **any form** that is sold to the public must have been caught during an open commercial fishery. Value-added products like smoked, canned, or vacuum-sealed items may be sold to the public throughout the year, but only if the fish used in the product was caught during a **commercial fishery**. Questions? Contact your tribe for regulations specific to you.

FALL FISHERIES FORECAST

Fall Season fisheries are managed based on harvest rate schedules for Upriver Bright chinook and B steelhead in the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement.



Yakama fisher Mackey Jackson with a fresh sockeye salmon.

The season forecasts are shown below. The 2013 forecast for Upriver Bright fall chinook is very large. The Spring Creek tule forecast is fairly small as is the forecast for B Steelhead. If the runs came right at the forecast levels, the tribes would be able to catch 30% of the river mouth run size of URB's and 15% of the Bonneville run size of B steelhead. This could be as much as 130,000 URB's and 4,700 B steelhead. The actual allowed catch will depend on the actual run sizes for these stocks and the runs are always different from the forecast.

The abundance of URB's versus tules and B steelhead will make managing the fall season fisheries challenging.

Utilizing a mesh size restriction will likely be needed.

Some fishers have already suggested other ideas about how to best manage the fisheries. Should gillnet fisheries begin a bit earlier than usual?

Should platform fisheries use the same mesh size limits as the gillnet fishery? What else could be done **continued ▶**

2013 PRE-SEASON FALL CHINOOK & COHO

Stock	Columbia River Mouth	Bonneville Dam
Upriver Bright	434,730	370,380
Mid-Col. Bright	96,340	62,780
Spring Cr. Tule	36,720	22,120
Total Chinook	567,130	458,880
Steelhead		322,600
Coho		135,440

◀ **Fishery Update cont. from previous page**
to maximize the chance that the tribal fishery can catch as many URB's as possible without reaching the B steelhead harvest limit? If you have any ideas, let your fishery department know.

Non-Indian fisheries are expected to be similar in structure to 2012 fisheries with a couple exceptions. The mainstem mark selective fishery

that was done last year will be repeated along with the allowance to retain clipped chinook at Buoy 10 in September. In previous years Buoy 10 has only allowed the retention of coho in September (following the chinook and coho retention period in August). In 2013, we also expect the states to propose a mark selective commercial coho tanglenet fishery in early October. 🐟

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY FUND TRIBAL SUCCESSES

LAURA GEPHART, WATERSHED PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

NOAA Fisheries has awarded CRITFC \$1.5 million for FY 2013 for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), a \$100,000 increase over last year. The CRITFC application was rated #2 of all of the applications submitted and #1 for all of the tribal applications.

Congress established PCSRF in 2000 to provide grants to Pacific Northwest tribes and states to assist salmon conservation and recovery efforts.



▲ *A protected creek system flows through the Warm Springs Tribe's Forest Ranch Project. Fencing to keep cattle out of the creek was funded through the PCSRF. This Middle Fork of John Day River parcel provides spawning habitat for up to 60% of returning spring chinook.*

CRITFC signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NOAA Fisheries each year to administer the PCSRF and assure that projects can be implemented efficiently. The CRITFC tribes' participation in the PCSRF is directed by the principals of Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit to provide fisheries benefits now and in the future.

Since 2000, the treaty tribes and CRITFC have successfully implemented 279 projects under the PCSRF within the Columbia River Basin. Some major successes include restoring 1,580 miles of streams for salmon habitat, the tribal acquisition of over 15,500 acres, and removing 57 instream passage barriers. The majority of these projects involve collaboration with federal, state and private landowners.

The PCSRF total funding amounts for all of the eligible entities have varied over the years from a high of \$110 million to a low of \$58 million. Each year a new application has to be submitted through a competitive process.

The tribal PCSRF projects represent only a small percentage of the total tribal salmon recovery efforts in the Columbia River Basin. 🐟

CRITFC Officers and Commissioners

NEZ PERCE



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Peaceful Site Dispute Resolution

Back in 2011, the four tribes' representatives who make up CRITFC's Law Enforcement Committee came up with a five-step process for site disputes. Over the past two years, the number of site disputes have decreased quite a bit thanks to fishers working to deal with some of the disputes themselves. I have high hopes that we'll see the number of disputes decrease even further as we head into the fall fishery.

The five-step process is:

STEP 1. Try to resolve the dispute directly with the other involved fishers. In many of the cases from the past few years, the disputing fishers hadn't even spoken with one another before CRITFC Enforcement involvement.

STEP 2. If you cannot resolve a site dispute between yourselves, contact your tribe to get assistance. Provide them with the fishing site, all the fishers involved, and any other information that may help resolve the site dispute, such as site registration documents and maps.

There may be some risk in taking matters into your own hands. Depending upon the circumstances, handling of another's property may result in a tribal violation.

STEP 3. If your tribe does not act to resolve the dispute in a timely manner, contact CRITFC Enforcement (541-386-6363). A case report will not be initiated until Steps 1 and 2 are followed. **Contact CRITFC Enforcement immediately if you are concerned for your personal safety or immediate loss of property.**



Paul Lumley
YAKAMA

STEP 4. Tribal law enforcement and CRITFC will attempt to help resolve the site dispute at the fishers' level before escalating the issue for tribal action. Your cooperation will help make this outcome more likely. If, however, the resolution is not satisfactory to you, contact your tribe's Fish and Wildlife Committee.

STEP 5. Abide by the decision of your tribe. Tribal law enforcement and CRITFC Enforcement have no authority to hear appeals to tribal decisions, they are merely there to enforce tribal law and decisions. If you would like to appeal a tribal ruling, direct it to your respective tribal officials and not tribal law enforcement and/or CRITFC Enforcement.

Here's to a productive, safe, and dispute-free fall fishery! 🐟

JOEL MOFFETT SELECTED AS NEW CRITFC CHAIRMAN

SARA THOMPSON, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Leaders from the Umatilla, Yakama, Nez Perce, and Warm Springs tribes unanimously selected Nez Perce Tribal Councilman Joel Moffett to lead CRITFC as the 2013-14 chairman. Mr. Moffett is the vice chairman of the Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee, the governing body of the Nez Perce Tribe. This is the second time that Mr. Moffett has served as CRITFC's chairman.

Moffett is known for his commitment to achieving consensus and for his creative solutions and ideas. He is known for his ability to distill complex issues and information into easily understood explanations. He has served on his tribe's Executive Committee since 2006 and represents Northwest tribes on the Tribal/Interior Budget Council and on the Executive Board of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians.

Moffett lives on the Nez Perce Reservation in Lapwai, Idaho with his family. He has three children, the youngest born just two months ago. They enjoy fishing throughout the Nez Perce homeland, from

the Columbia River to its upper tributaries in the wilds of Idaho and Oregon.

"I am honored to have been selected to chair the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission," said Moffett. "Protecting salmon—the very heart of the cultures of the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama tribes—is a great responsibility. Add in protecting lamprey, tribal treaty rights, and the very water itself and we have plenty of work to do. Together, I believe the member tribes of CRITFC have the unique skills, drive, and expertise to accomplish this."

The other CRITFC officers elected were Bruce Jim (Warm Springs), vice chairman; Gerald Lewis (Yakama), secretary, and N. Kathryn Brigham (Umatilla), treasurer. 🐟



2013-14 CRITFC Chairman
Joel Moffett





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Yakama • Warm Springs
Umatilla • Nez Perce 

2013 Willamette Falls Lamprey Harvest

Fishers from the Warm Springs and Yakama tribes at Willamette Falls collecting lamprey. The July 8 harvest coincided with the placement of flash boards that dewater the falls. This often kills lamprey by stranding them in pools at the base of the falls and is an opportunity for the tribes to salvage these doomed fish for use in tribal feasts and ceremonies.

