

The Dipnetter

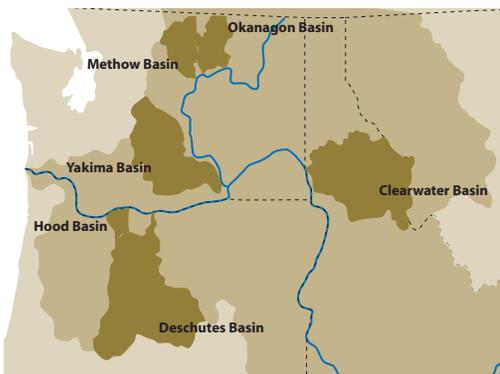
News of the River from the
Columbia River Inter-Tribal
Fish Commission



November 2013

TRIBAL STEELHEAD KELT PROJECT

On October 17, tribal and CRITFC staff released 57 adult steelhead that had been successfully reconditioned as part of a CRITFC/Nez Perce research program. Through the program, post-spawn adult steelhead are trapped at Lower Granite Dam, transported to Dworshak National Fish Hatchery in Orofino, Idaho where they are reconditioned over a 5-month period, and then released to spawn a second time. By re-maturing them in a facility rather than losing them when they attempt another trip to the ocean and back, these fish can spawn over multiple years and aid in the recovery of wild steelhead populations in the Snake River.



The tribes are conducting kelt reconditioning projects in subbasins throughout the Northwest.

Unlike salmon, steelhead don't necessarily die after spawning. Around 2% of Columbia Basin steelhead successfully spawn twice. These repeat spawners are called "kelts." Thousands try to migrate to the ocean after spawning but die before getting there. Limitations on downstream adult fish passage at the Columbia River hydroelectric dams pose serious barriers to outmigrating kelts. As a result, fewer kelts are found in the upper Columbia than elsewhere in the basin.

Research Yields Positive Results

The tribes' cutting edge genetic research at Hagerman laboratory identifies which tributaries are producing the most kelts. Research at the Parkdale Fish Facility suggests that kelts are just as reproductively viable as fish spawning the first time. This means that every kelt has the potential to be a valuable contributor to steelhead populations.

Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit (Spirit of the Salmon)

To this day, the tribes remain the only fishery managers conducting steelhead kelt reconditioning research in the Columbia Basin. These programs have been successful in discovering which reconditioning strategies and methods work best at decreasing mortality after spawning. By collecting and reconditioning kelts the tribal programs are acquiring wild steelhead spawners from a group of fish that most likely would have died.

This project demonstrates the tribes' commitment to *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit*—the Spirit of the Salmon restoration plan. The tribes' plan calls for the recovery of steelhead and other culturally important fish resources so that all residents in the Columbia River Basin might enjoy nature's bounty. 🐟



Nez Perce fisheries staff members Scott Everett (left) and Joe Samuels (right) net and release adult steelhead into the Snake River just below Lower Granite Dam.

FALL FISHERY RECAP

STUART ELLIS, CRITFC HARVEST BIOLOGIST

The fall season tribal fisheries have wound down. The fall chinook count at Bonneville should end up a little over 950,000. Over 1 million upriver fall chinook will have entered the Columbia River for the first time since Bonneville Dam was built. There were 27.5 days open for commercial gillnet fishing and 70 days open for commercial sales of platform and hook-and-line caught fish. More fall chinook were harvested in Zone 6 than in any other year since the construction of Bonneville Dam. Prices remained good throughout the commercial fishery. Just under 230,000 fall chinook were harvested along with over 17,000 steelhead and over 5,700 coho in the mainstem fisheries.

It is possible to see some boats out working in the Zone 6 reservoirs in October. The tribes and states work together to sample the three reservoirs for “young of the year” sturgeon that hatched out this spring and summer. This sampling collects data on these fish that are used as part of our sturgeon stock assessments. The fish are sampled alive with very small mesh gillnets that do not harm the sturgeon. Later in the winter, you may see tribal crews out sampling larger sturgeon which is also part of our stock assessment work. This stock assessment work is an important part of tribal/state co-management of the sturgeon in Zone 6 and helps the tribes manage sturgeon fisheries sustainably. 🐟

CORPS WINTER CLEANUP

KELLY THOMAS, NAT RES MANAGER, THE DALLES LOCK AND DAM

The US Army Corps of Engineers will begin its annual clean up on Dec. 1, 2013. This year’s focus will be Avery Park, Seufert Park, The Dalles Dam Peninsula, Giles French Park, and Lepage Park. All personal property, temporary

structures, and building materials need to be removed prior to Dec 1. If these items are not removed, they will be removed from the site, impounded, and eventually disposed of as abandoned property. The Corps of Engineers has identified and tagged the titled property below for removal:

Description	Location	License/vessel#
Blue/White Shasta Camper	Avery Park	(WA) V54193
Viking Alpenlite Camper	Avery Park	(WA) 4482-PG
Blue Mirrocraft Boat	Avery Park	WN 3748 NY
Tan Glastron Boat	Avery Park	CF 5016 EG
Yellow WellCraft Sunhatch boat	Lepage Park Boat Ramp	(OR) 72 YN

If you are the owner of the tagged property, know who is, or have any questions, please call The Dalles Lock and Dam Natural Resource Office at (541) 506-7857. 🐟

PACIFIC MARINE EXPO

LES BROWN, CRITFC SALMON MARKETING SPECIALIST

For fishers committed to investing in the future are invited to the Pacific Marine Expo to find everything you need to get geared up. Designed for Northwest commercial fishers, you’ll find the latest in equipment, motors, boat builders, suppliers, new products, and fresh solutions.

The event is will be held at Seattle’s CenturyLink Field Event Center Nov 20-22. The Expo is free if you pre-register, which you can do at PacificMarineExpo.com or (800) 454-3005. Registration at the door is \$30, however through a special arrangement with the Expo, Indian fishers who show up unregistered can get in free using the promo code “108116.” The Expo encourages everyone planning on attending to pre-register. Those who pre-register are entered to win a \$500 gift card. 🐟

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STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

TANA ATCHLEY, CRITFC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

CRITFC and the University of Idaho are building on their strong, collaborative relationship and moving forward with plans to initiate a Native American education program. On October 10th, CRITFC sent a delegation to the University of Idaho to discuss workforce development and educational opportunities for tribal members.

University of Idaho President Don Burnett and Provost Kathy Aiken agreed to create a joint task force comprised of university and CRITFC staff, including University of Idaho Indigenous Affairs Liaison Arthur Taylor and CRITFC Workforce Development Coordinator Tana Atchley. The program will likely include undergraduate and graduate opportunities in fisheries and natural resource management. Core components of these efforts will emphasize strong support services and programs for tribal students.

Since 2005, CRITFC has contracted more than \$9 million, including \$2.3 million in CRITFC contributions to construct the Hagerman Lab.

Tribal Biologist Traineeship Opportunity

Under the direction of Dr. Jan Boll, the University of Idaho recently received funding for the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program through the National Science Foundation. The research will be to develop analyses and decision support tools to evaluate alternative salmon, lamprey, and watershed restoration strategies, especially with respect to water quality; altered ecosystem function due to climate change and dam operations; toxic contamination of food products (e.g., mercury in salmon); and to develop biological parameters that can be incorporated into models that predict vulnerability of fish populations under scenarios of climate change.



Meeting in the ivied halls of the University of Idaho. [left to right] Paul Lumley, CRITFC executive director, Joel Moffett, CRITFC chairman, Arthur Taylor, University of Idaho Indigenous Affairs Liaison, and Tana Atchley, CRITFC workforce development.

—photo by Shawn Narum, CRITFC

This interdisciplinary program will provide graduate students with funding that covers tuition and provides a \$30,000 stipend for 2 years. They are particularly interested in recruiting within tribal fisheries programs. Interested candidates should contact Dr. Jan Boll at jboll@uidaho.edu for more information. 🐟

BOAT MOTOR WEATHERIZATION

EXCERPTED FROM THE TRIBAL FISHERS HANDBOOK—TO GET A COPY, CONTACT LES BROWN AT (503) 799-8640

Now is the time to perform your end-of-season motor maintenance and weatherization to ensure your vessel will be ready to go next year. One of the most important things you can do to take care of your motor is to remove all the fuel from it before it goes into storage. Boat fuel—which contains ethanol—can't be left sitting in the engine for more than 2 weeks, as it creates a varnish that can prevent the engine from starting and separate, leaving a layer of water than can rust your motor.

Follow these steps to remove all the fuel from your

two-cycle or four-cycle stroke, outboard motor:

- 1) Check the lower unit to see that no water is in the unit.
- 2) Empty the fuel tank.
- 3) Replace the lower unit gear oil (refer to the manufacturer's recommendations).
- 4) Hook a garden hose up to your motor with a set of motor ear muffs, turn on the water, then start the engine.
- 5) While its running, disconnect the fuel line from the motor and allow it to run until it dies. Try to turn it over one or two more times to ensure all the fuel is out of the carburetor and the engine is completely dry. 🐟

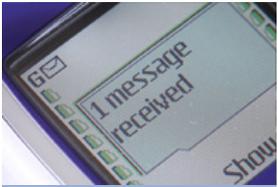




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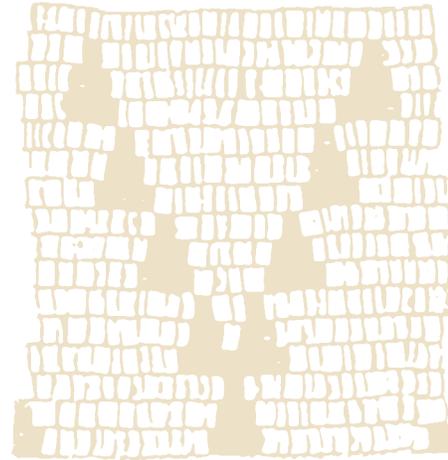
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Yakama • Warm Springs
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CRITFC Executive Director's Message

Speaking for the Ecosystem

In 1964, after 14 years of studies and 6 years of negotiations, the United States and Canada implemented the Columbia River Treaty. The two nations agreed to manage the river system under this treaty only for flood control and hydropower production. The tribes weren't involved in the technical studies or the negotiations and as a result, tribal interests were not included.

The needs of salmon were ignored in the original treaty, which has complicated the tribes' salmon restoration programs. With several endangered salmon populations, it's clear that the experiment to ignore the shared nature of the basin ecosystem in the 1964 treaty has been a tremendous failure.

Now the 50-year-old treaty is up for review. This provides the tribes and the region with an opportunity to renegotiate the treaty to include the river values of today, not the outdated values of the 1950s and 60s. This may be the best opportunity in our lifetime to change the flow of the river to be more natural, help juvenile salmon migrate to the ocean, and possibly even restoring salmon runs above Grand Coulee Dam into Canada.

The federal government needs to step up for tribal treaty rights and protect our interests. That's the supreme law of the land and the tribes intend to make sure that the federal government upholds the tribes' treaties of 1855. 🐟



Last month, tribal officials met with Governor Kitzhaber to discuss the Columbia River Treaty. Pictured left to right: Jim Heffernan, CRITFC policy analyst; Paul Lumley, CRITFC executive director; Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber; Charles Hudson, CRITFC governmental affairs; and Bob Austin with the Upper Snake River Tribes.