

Changes Coming to Columbia River Salmon Market

by Les Brown, CRITFC Salmon Marketing

On January 4, 2011 President Obama signed the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) into law. This law is the most sweeping reform of food safety laws in over 70 years. It shifted focus of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) away from responding to problems and toward assuring the safety of the entire food supply chain through education, safety procedures, and record keeping. The food industry had already started to change even before these new regulations, for instance by putting premium prices on foods labeled to describe their place of origin. After more than five years of deliberation, the FDA recently adopted rules to implement FSMA that will change how the whole food industry does business.

Many of our tribal fishers know that seafood consumers have come to expect the highest quality in the salmon they purchase. In recognition of the changing marketplace and the need for consumer confidence in product safety and quality, fishers are taking greater care of their harvest by utilizing “best harvest practices” such as icing, bleeding, keeping clean boats, totes, and improving product merchandising. Fishers are also practicing what has come to be known as the 3Rs: harvesting a cold, wholesome resource, mastering a reliable delivery system, and developing strong relationships with customers. The work is paying off with the value of the fish significantly increasing in value and wholesomeness compared to a few decades ago. This has made tribal fishers important players in the regions fish marketplace.

The fundamentals of the FDA’s new food safety program are similar to the HACCP food safety practices for seafood that many tribal fishers attended classes to learn and practice. In addition, the FDA and the marketplace are now asking for more records documenting the origin and subsequent handling for all foods, not just seafood. For tribal fishers, the practices in their HACCP training and the food safety checklist in their



Sharon Dick, Yakama, teaching a class on fish drying that incorporates safe food handling methods to ensure the product is traditionally prepared, safe, and complies with food safety standards. The CRITFC Salmon Marketing program holds several classes and trainings each year for tribal members interesting improving their product or getting certified for safe food handling.

Fishers Handbook should put them on the right road to get ahead of these changes. Additional copies of the Fishers Handbook will be available from CRITFC’s Salmon Marketing Program by the end of August.

CRITFC is planning food safety classes to be held over the next year for tribal fishers to learn HACCP and updated marketplace practices. For more information regarding FSMA or any other questions regarding the salmon Harvest feel free to contact Buck Jones, Salmon Marketing Specialist at (503) 238-0667. 🇺🇸



Fall Fishery Forecast and Update

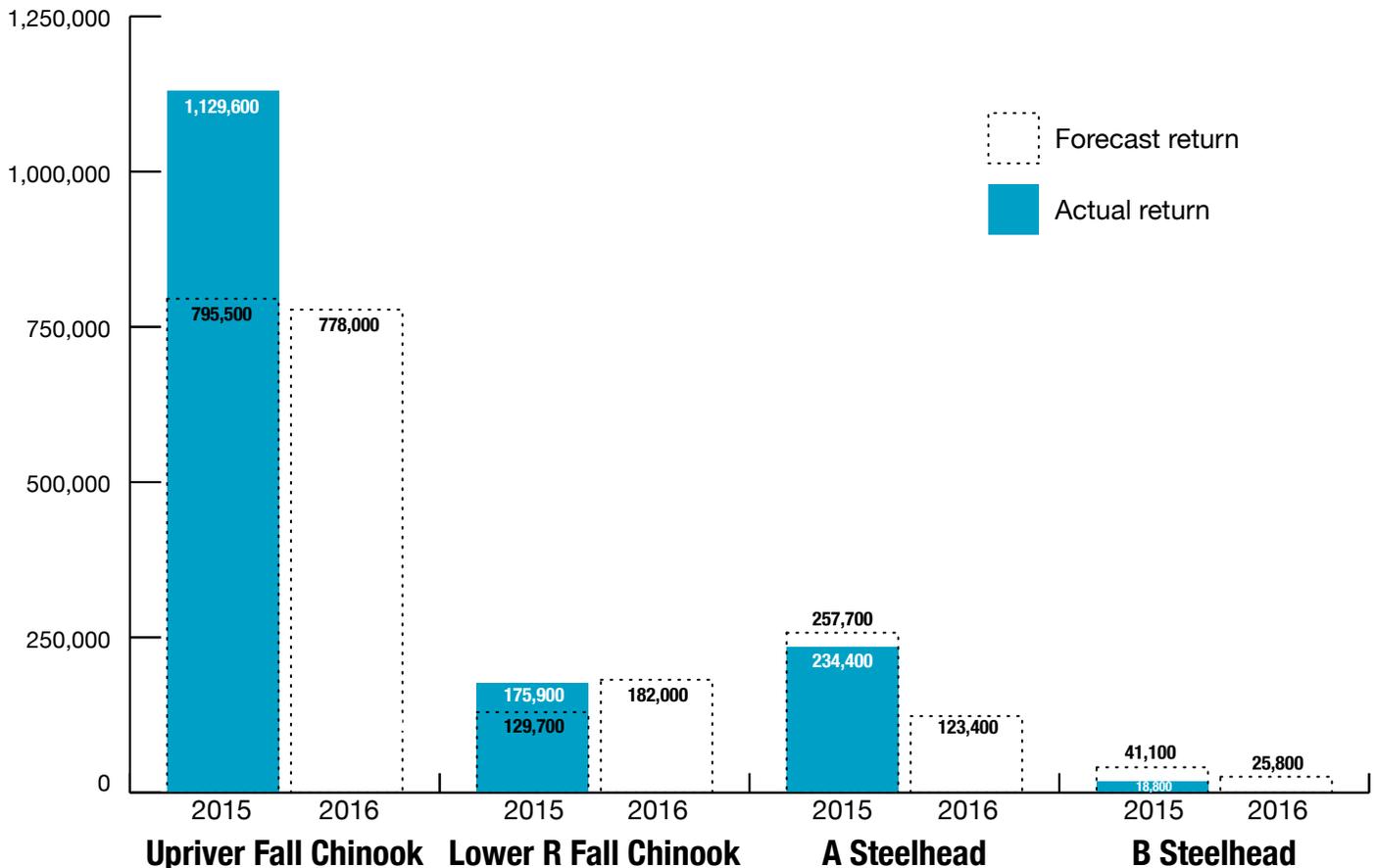
by Stuart Ellis, CRITFC Harvest Specialist

The fall fishery season started on August 1. We are expecting another large fall chinook return this year. The forecasts are shown below. We are expecting over three-quarters of a million fall chinook destined for upstream of Bonneville. Additionally, there is also an expectation of around 200,000 destined for areas downstream of Bonneville. Both treaty and non-treaty fisheries are managed based on the same run-sizes. Fisheries are based on actual, not forecast run sizes. Treaty fisheries will get a 30 percent harvest rate on the Upriver Bright stock (part of the overall upriver fall chinook run) while non-treaty fisheries get 15 percent. We expect to be able to update the chinook run sizes around September 12.

We do have concerns about the steelhead run size. The U.S. v. Oregon Technical Advisory Committee, which is comprised of tribal, state, and federal biologists, has nearly halved the pre-season A-index steelhead run estimate of just over 230,000 down to a run of 123,400. A-index steelhead are less than 78 cm (about 30 inches) and most of them have spent just one year in the ocean. These “1-ocean” fish may have faced both poor in-river survival on their outmigration last year and may have

found poor ocean conditions as well. Since fall season fisheries are limited based on the run size of the B-Index steelhead (measuring 78 cm or more) and these fish often spend two years in the ocean, we do not think this downgrade of the A-Index steelhead run size will necessarily cause problems for the fall fishery. The larger steelhead tend to migrate a bit later in the fall, so it is too early to be sure of what the B-Index steelhead run size will be. At the forecast run size, the treaty fisheries will have a 15 percent harvest rate on B-Index steelhead. The non-treaty fisheries are limited to a 2 percent impact on the wild B-Index run.

The tribal platform and hook-and-line fisheries have been going throughout the fall season for both commercial and subsistence purposes. Commercial gillnet fisheries began on August 22. Currently the tribes have set four 4-night weekly gillnet periods. More periods are expected to be set later. Non-treaty fisheries are structured much like the last two years. As catch data becomes available, information will be posted on-line at: wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/ and www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/comm_fishery_updates.asp 🏹



Salmon Camp 2016

by Tana Atchley, CRITFC Workforce Development Coordinator

The sixth annual CRITFC Tribal Salmon Camp program, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, was held July 18 through July 22 for 21 CRITFC Tribal middle school students. The camp was held at the He-He Longhouse on the Warm Springs Reservation.

Salmon Camp is a key component of CRITFC's Workforce Development Program. The annual camp focuses on providing culturally relevant science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) experiences to foster an interest in natural resources careers by engaging middle school students in activities that combine Western science and traditional ecological knowledge.

With the assistance of Warm Springs Tribal Fisheries experts, tribal leaders and elders, Salmon Camp engaged students in hands-on activities in creating and monitoring healthy fish habitat, learned about climate change and energy use, and spent valuable time with tribal elders and leaders. Students gained insight on college and career options in the science fields and had the opportunity to speak with professionals about their jobs and educational pathways. 🦄



CRITFC Officers and Commissioners

Yakama



Patrick Luke, Chair
Leland Bill · Vivian Babs George
Gerald Lewis · Raymond Colfax
Johnny Jackson · Randy Settler
Wilbur Slockish Jr
(509) 865-5121

Nez Perce



Dan Kane, Vice-chair
Elizabeth Arthur-Attao · Arthur Broncheau
Quintin Ellenwood · Mary Jane Miles
McCoy Oatman · Samuel N. Penney
Bill Picard · Shannon F. Wheeler
William Coomer, Jr · Tuiaana Moliga
Wilfred Scott · Timothy Wheeler
(208) 843-2253

Warm Springs



Ryan Smith, Secretary
Kirby Heath · Bruce Jim
Stanley Simtustus Sr · Jonathan Smith
Emerson Squiemphen
(541) 553-3257

Umatilla



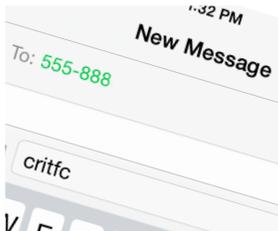
Jeremy Red Star Wolf, Treasurer
Rapheal Bill · James Marsh
Damon McKay · Chris Williams
(541) 276-3165





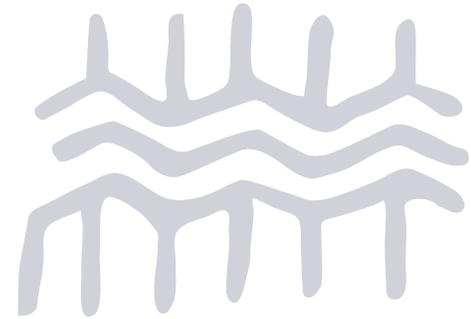
The Dipnetter

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 1200
Portland, OR 97232
www.critfc.org · (503) 238-0667



Text "critfc" to the number 555-888 to start getting fishery announcements on your cell phone.

It's free!



The Dipnetter

Yakama • Warm Springs
Umatilla • Nez Perce



Living Rivers

by Paul Lumley, CRITFC Executive Director

Last month, CRITFC, along with a number of other intertribal organizations and tribes co-hosted the 2016 Future of Our Salmon Technical Workshop in Spokane, Washington. The workshop was held in preparation for the main conference that will take place in Portland on October 18-20.

This year's theme is "Healthy Floodplains, Living Rivers" to highlight the vital role of floods and floodplains to healthy rivers.

Colville tribal leader John Sirois spoke about traditional knowledge of rivers. He pointed out that tepee doors always faced east except when they were set up near rivers because thousands of years of experience had taught them to always be aware of the river as it could change in an instant.

From the time they were born, children learned to respect rivers and their potential to flood. A Nez Perce story tells how children should never to fall asleep near a stream because Dragonfly would come by and sew their eyes shut. This scary possibility, much more effective and memorable to kids than saying "always be aware of the river because it could rise and sweep you away in an instant," taught them to never let their



guard down when it came to interacting with a river.

The tribes viewed floods as natural occurrences that helped heal and sustain the land. They knew the times of the year when floods normally occurred and acted accordingly. They also knew that rivers are by their nature unpredictable and needed to be respected at all times.

In our modern world, humans have tricked themselves into believing that they can have absolute control of rivers and seem surprised when a river doesn't obey. Unfortunately this has resulted in rivers and streams that can be harmful or inhospitable to salmon and other fish, degrade rather than replenish the land, or cause human suffering when floods destroy homes and other infrastructure in areas where they shouldn't have been built.

Hopefully the efforts to undo the damage that avoiding floods and controlling rivers has done will gain broader support. By working together, we can help rivers act like rivers again. 