

## End-of-Season Procedures at Fishing Access Sites

by Michael Broncheau, Fishing Site Maintenance Manager

As we near the end of the 2016 fishing seasons, it's time to start preparing for winter. Here are a couple reminders on how to prep and to make sure you're ready to go for the spring season next year.

### *Life Jackets*

Remember to store your life jackets in a dry location over winter. Oftentimes, life jackets are left in boats over the winter and it isn't until a fisher is launching the boat the following spring that it is discovered



A moldy lifejacket that had been left in a covered boat over the winter.

that the life jackets are covered in mold or mildew. When this happens, it is all too easy to say, "I'll go without this one time, because I don't want to drive into town to buy another one." Life is too precious to make this kind of mistake. By making sure you're ready for anything, you can increase your safety and the safety of your crew.

### *Fishing Access Sites*

Winter is the time of year when the Fishing Access Site Maintenance team performs extensive repair and cleanup projects and some of these projects require that all personal property be removed before it can take place. The Treaty Fishing Access Sites are not authorized by the BIA for year-round use. Property left after the fall season is at risk of being declared abandoned and disposed of.

#### **Personal, Non-Titled Property**

Beginning in November, the Maintenance team begins cataloguing and storing abandoned personal property at the fishing access sites. The Maintenance team recognizes the value and

necessity of fishing gear to the fishers' economic livelihood and it is their goal to return every piece of abandoned fishing gear to its owner. This includes gill nets, rod and reel, hoop nets, dip nets, set lines, totes, coolers, gaffs, and snares. The tribes' policy to be implemented by Site Maintenance is:

- Abandoned fishing gear will be stored for one year on (or near) the site where it was found.
- A notice detailing the collected gear and reclaiming procedure will be posted on the site.
- The owners of marked fishing gear will be notified where their gear is being stored and how to claim it.
- Maintenance will try to identify the owners of unmarked fishing gear with other fishers who frequently use the site.
- After one year, the gear will be distributed to the tribes under CRITFE's confiscated gear program.
- Other unclaimed personal property will be disposed of after the 2017 spring fishery.

#### **Titled Property**

The removal of abandoned titled property, which includes cars, trucks, boats, boat trailers, campers, camp trailers, personal or commercial storage sheds, and motor homes, will proceed according to this schedule:

- BIA will tag and post notice on all abandoned titled property, which will remain on the site for 30 days.
- After 30 days, a property description and removal notice will be published in tribal and local newspapers; the property may be moved to the Maintenance compound in The Dalles or left on site.
- 30 days after the notice publication, the BIA will remove and dispose of the abandoned property.

At any time prior to the removal and disposal of the abandoned property, the owner with a verifiable proof of ownership may contact Maintenance staff to reclaim it. 



## CRITFC Director Steps Down

Paul Lumley, the current Executive Director of CRITFC, is stepping down at the end of October. He has accepted an offer to lead the Native American Youth and Family Association (NAYA) as its new Executive Director.

Paul has served as the Commission's Executive Director for seven years. He began working for CRITFC in 1987 as an intern, moving into policy analysis, then becoming the manager of the organization's Watershed Department.

During his tenure, Paul oversaw a period of significant changes to tribal capacity brought about by the Columbia Basin Fish Accords, which were signed the year before he was selected to lead CRITFC. Over the course of his nearly 30 years with the organization, Paul saw the Columbia River salmon run nearly double in size, a significant expansion of tribal commercial fishing revenues, and renewed attention to the issues facing the Indian housing crisis along Zone 6.

A nationwide search is underway. A new executive director is expected to be selected and hired by the end of the year. Tribal leadership has a transition plan in place and has selected CRITFC's Policy and Legal Services Manager Rob Lothrop as acting executive director. 🍁

## Fall Fishery Update

by Stuart Ellis, CRITFC Harvest Specialist

Full season fisheries are well on their way to completion. The chinook and coho returns have been less than forecasted this year. Pre-season, we were expecting over 675,000 bright chinook and just over 100,000 Spring Creek tules at the river mouth. We are now expecting about 411,000 bright stock fish and just over 57,000 tules. We expect about 29,000 coho at Bonneville through September which is under 70% of forecast. The A-run steelhead are coming in at about 57% of forecast with an expected run of 129,000. The B run steelhead are about the only group of fish doing better than forecast. Pre-season, we expected just 25,800 B steelhead, but the run is now expected to be over 40,000.

At press time, the tribal commercial fishery is in its sixth week of commercial gillnet fishing. Through September 30 there will have been 27 days of commercial gillnet fishing. Through September 23, the tribal fishery has caught nearly 130,000 adult fall chinook including over 90,000 upriver brights. About 7,200 steelhead and 1,600 coho. Prices have been relatively good this fall as well. At press time, we don't know how long the fishery will continue, but it is likely commercial fishing will extend into October. 🍁

## Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act

by Sara Thompson, CRITFC Public Information Officer

The *Oregonian's* multi-part investigative report on tribal fishing site conditions attracted the attention of US Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR). They pledged to seek congressional assistance. Senator Merkley introduced Senate Bill 3222, the Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites Improvement Act. This bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions.

In September, CRITFC Executive Director Paul Lumley was called to Washington DC to testify before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in support of the bill. 🍁

*Executive Director Lumley [right] seated next to NCAI Treasurer Ron Allen as they prepare to testify before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Photo Courtesy of Lisa Lumley.*



# CRITFC Stands with Standing Rock

CRITFC leadership sent a letter to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe supporting its efforts to oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline route threatening its cultural and natural resources.

They noted their disappointment with the DC District Court's September 9, 2016 opinion, saying "it serves to highlight the limitations of the content and application of federal laws intended to protect tribal resources. This case points to the need for reforming federal law to protect tribal lands, resources, and treaty rights."

The letter continued by linking the Standing Rock situation with treaty-secured issues throughout Indian Country. "Like the federal government's treatment of

the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's interests, narrow and incomplete federal recognition and protection of any tribe's treaty-secured interests is not acceptable.

"Like the Missouri River, tribal people have lived along the Columbia River since time immemorial. Cultural and treaty reserved natural resources are at risk from federal oversight or lack thereof for both of our peoples. We proudly stand with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe."

CRITFC has assigned staff to support the legal positions of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe by joining with tribes across the country in the amicus curiae effort being led by the National Congress of American Indians, Supreme Court Project. 



CRITFC Commissioners and staff pose for a #StandWithStandingRock photo at the August Commission meeting.

## CRITFC Officers and Commissioners

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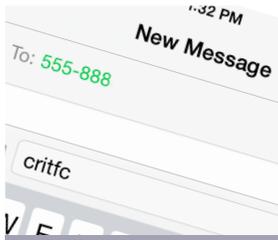
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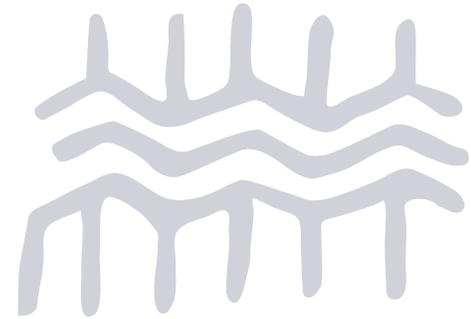
# The Dipnetter

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## Farewell by Paul Lumley, CRITFC Executive Director

As I prepare to leave CRITFC this month, I reflect back on not only my seven years as the organization's Executive Director, but also on my experiences I have had serving the Commission in various other positions since 1987.

Over those years, I have witnessed Columbia Basin salmon runs double. I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the Columbia River Basin and see firsthand the many projects that our member tribes have undertaken in an effort to put fish back in the rivers and restore the watersheds where the fish live. These projects are a significant part of the incredible salmon recovery the region has seen over the past 30 years.

In 1977, when tribal leaders from the four Columbia River treaty fishing tribes came together to create the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, they envisioned a new era of intertribal cooperation and collaboration in their efforts to restore salmon, the cornerstone of our diets, cultures, and connection to the land.

In all our endeavors, two priorities have and always will guide us: that the good of the salmon is our ultimate concern and the protection of the treaty-reserved right to harvest these fish, one

our sacred First Foods. Protecting the salmon on behalf of the tribes is a great responsibility and a task that we were specifically organized to fulfill. We have many means to bring about what is expected of us—means granted to us by wisdom, foresight, and direction from the Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce tribal leaders who have shaped and lead this organization.

Even at the low point in salmon returns, the tribes never gave in to despair or hopelessness about the situation. Our strength is from the fish and this ancient connection provided the dedication, determination, and hope to accomplish what so many said was impossible. The tribes answered this challenge with a solid foundation of cultural wisdom. The tribes answered it with a desire to honor the sacred fish. The tribes answered it by joining forces and creating CRITFC. The tribes answered it by finding the highest quality people to work toward our goal. Because of our unified efforts, we will continue to be successful in this great work.

It has been an honor to have served the tribes, the fishers, and the salmon for these three decades. It is with a heavy heart that I leave CRITFC, but it helps to know that I leave the Commission under the care of capable leadership and dedicated staff. 