

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8b
Columbia River Compact
September 12, 2013

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| Fisheries Under Consideration: | Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet |
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 25, 2013

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Forecasts and management limits were included in Fall Fact Sheet #1
- 573,567 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam through September 11. These counts include 518,552 bright stock fish and 55,015 tules. The tule count includes 7,598 adult size jack tules.
- TAC met on September 9 and updated the URB run to a range of 664,000 to 835,000 at the Columbia River mouth. This will be a record high URB run. TAC also updated the BPH run to a range of 70,000-80,000 at the mouth. The total upriver fall chinook run will very likely be a record run.
- Spring Creek Hatchery has reported that they are nearing their total broodstock collection goal. They have begun to surplus some extra fish that returned early so later timed fish can also be incorporated into the broodstock. The hatchery manager has indicated that reducing the sanctuary around the hatchery would be appropriate for next week's fishery.
- The adult fall Chinook count at McNary Dam is 92,148. The 60,000 fish escapement goal was met on September 7.
- The fall Chinook count at Lower Monumental Dam is 18,352 which suggests a strong return of Snake River fall Chinook, but passage conditions at Lower Granite remain poor with only 8,067 fall Chinook past Lower Granite. High temperatures have not allowed trapping to begin for fall chinook broodstock collection.
- Counts of A and B Index steelhead at Bonneville Dam for July 1-August 12 totals 196,947 fish. These include 88,019 unclipped fish (approximately 45% unclipped). TAC has updated the A index run size to 205,000 at Bonneville, but has not updated the B Index run size. Steelhead counts have remained lower than average. Only a very small number of B sized steelhead have been sampled to date at Bonneville which suggests the B steelhead to date are performing less than expected.
- The adult coho count at Bonneville Dam is 19,410 fish through September 11. The cumulative coho count to date is the lowest since 2002.

2013 TREATY INDIAN FALL FISHERIES

- Fall season treaty harvest to date is shown in the Table below
- Commercial sales began at 6:00 AM on Monday August 12 for platform and hook and line Yakama Nation tributary fisheries. Sales are expected to continue throughout the fall season.

- For modeling purposes, tribal staff have assumed a river mouth URB run size of 750,000 and a B steelhead run size of 19,500. This B steelhead run size was chosen in case the run is downgraded to a level where the allowed tribal harvest rate is 13%.
- The fourth week of commercial gillnet fishing is in progress. The catches shown for this week are modeled based on the actual net counts and updated catch rates from the first gillnet periods.
- The catches for next week's proposed fishery is also modeled using the average catch rates of earlier fishing periods.

| 2013 Fall Season Tribal Harvest | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|------|
| Fishery Platform/ Permit | Dates | Nets | Total Adult Chinook Catch | Adult URB | Adult MCB | Adult Tule | Total Steelhead catch | B Steelhead | Coho |
| | 8/1- 8/18 | | 1,327 | 1,157 | 31 | 0 | 4,100 | 110 | 11 |
| Gillnet #1 | 8/19-8/21 | 403 | 4,505 | 4,035 | 132 | 262 | 1,016 | 198 | 11 |
| Gillnet #2 | 8/26-8/30 | 655 | 25,378 | 19,715 | 1,263 | 4,373 | 1,200 | 79 | 100 |
| Gillnet #3 Projection | 9/3-9/7 | 726 | 45,903 | 35,698 | 2,287 | 7,918 | 1,775 | 107 | 172 |
| SubTotal | | | 77,113 | 60,605 | 3,713 | 12,553 | 8,091 | 494 | 294 |
| Gillnet #4 Projection | 9/10-9/14 | 682 | 51,450 | 25,000 | 20,050 | 6,400 | 2,550 | 750 | 110 |
| SubTotal | | | 128,563 | 85,605 | 23,763 | 18,953 | 10,641 | 1,244 | 404 |
| Gillnet #5 projection | 9/16-9/20 | 725 | 49,700 | 27,000 | 15,300 | 7,400 | 2,950 | 1,100 | 200 |
| Late Fall Total | | | | | | | | 100 | |
| | | | 178,263 | 112,605 | 39,063 | 26,353 | 13,591 | 2,444 | 604 |
| Allowed Remaining | | | | 225,000 | | | 4,740 | 2,535 | |
| | | | | 112,395 | | | | 91 | |

| Recommendation: 2013 Fall Season Treaty Commercial Gillnet Fishery | | |
|---|--|------------|
| Season: | 6:00 AM Monday September 16 through 6:00 PM Friday September 20 | (4.5 days) |
| Area: | Zone 6 | |
| Gear: | Gillnet. 8 inch minimum mesh size. | |
| Sanctuaries | Standard sanctuaries for this gear type are in place. The Standard Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary will be reduced to a 150 foot radius around the hatchery ladder. | |
| Allowable Sales: | Salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon from the Bonneville Pool (38 to 54 inches fork length) and from The Dalles and John Day Pools (43 to 54 inches fork length) may be retained for subsistence purposes. Fish caught during the open periods may be sold after the period concludes. | |
| Additional Rules: | 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240. | |

- Assuming run sizes stated above, at the end of this week, we would expect the tribal fishery to be at a 11.4% harvest rate on URB fall Chinook and a 6.4% harvest rate on B steelhead. After fishing next week and reserving 100 B steelhead for late fall fisheries, we would expect the tribal fishery to be at a 15% harvest rate on URB Chinook and a 12.5% harvest rate on B steelhead.
- If the B steelhead run is higher than 19,500 or if B steelhead catches this week and next week are less than modeled, then there may be additional impacts available to set additional gillnet fishing periods.
- Tribal staff will monitor fisheries and report catches on a weekly basis. Net counts will be done each week to determine fishing effort.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes will request a Compact Hearing to be held on Thursday September 19 to consider commercial gillnet fishing periods.