

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO.11b
Columbia River Compact
September 26, 2013

Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet

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
- 884,083 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam through September 25. Based on subsampling at the dam approximately 36% of these fish are ad-clipped. A large proportion of the unclipped fish will be natural origin fish.
- TAC met on September 16 and updated the URB run to 832,500 at the mouth. This will be a record high URB run. TAC also updated the BPH run to 69,000 at the mouth. The Mid-Columbia Bright (MCB) stock is expected to be 154,300 fish at the river mouth. The total upriver fall Chinook run is a record run with 1,055,800 upriver fall Chinook expected to enter the Columbia River. TAC expects over 950,000 upriver fall Chinook to pass Bonneville Dam.
- Spring Creek Hatchery is well into spawning fish.
- The adult fall Chinook count at McNary Dam is 313,783. The 60,000 fish escapement goal was met on September 7. Even with over 75,000 fish passing Priest Rapids, the escapement to the Hanford Reach should be well over 100,000 fish.
- The adult fall Chinook count at Lower Granite Dam is 42,276 through September 25. The cumulative adult fall Chinook counts at Lower Granite, Little Goose and Lower Monumental Dams are all record high counts to date since the construction of the four lower Snake River Dams. Approximately 29% of the adult fall Chinook at Lower Granite have been adipose fin clipped to date. Because around half of the hatchery fall Chinook releases in the Snake River are clipped, this low clip rate at Lower Granite suggests that there are good numbers of natural origin Snake River fall Chinook in the return.
- Counts of A and B Index steelhead at Bonneville Dam for July 1-September 17 totals 213,257 fish. These include 92,773 unclipped fish (approximately 44% unclipped). TAC downgraded the B steelhead run size to 15,000.
- The adult coho count at Bonneville Dam is 26,889 fish through September 17. The cumulative coho count to date is the lowest since 1997. Approximately 35% of the adult coho passing Bonneville Dam are ad-clipped but mark rates increase dramatically in October.

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 and Yakama Nation tributary fisheries. Sales are expected to continue throughout the fall season.

- The sixth 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 five gillnet periods.
- Some but not all coded wire tag (CWT) data is available for the tribal catch. The Chinook stock composition will be revised as complete CWT data become available. Enough CWT data is available, that the estimated URB harvest rates should be close.
- Steelhead stock composition estimates are still preliminary, but are not expected to change much as monitoring data are finalized.
- 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		1,478	1,289	34	0	4,100	110	11
Gillnet #1	8/19-8/21	403	4,922	4,409	144	286	1,016	198	11
Gillnet #2	8/26-8/30	655	27,708	21,660	1,434	4,589	1,365	80	101
Gillnet #3	9/3-9/7	726	47,431	41,777	3,797	1,857	2,091	120	173
Gillnet #4	9/10-9/14	682	72,419	59,172	7,411	5,836	2,550	156	847
Gillnet #5	9/16-9/20	610	40,419	33,020	4,136	3,257	1,526	240	290
SubTotal			194,377	161,327	16,956	15,825	12,648	904	1,433
Gillnet #6 Projection	9/24-9/27	496	27,900	19,500	4,600	3,800	1,600	250	300
SubTotal			222,277	180,827	21,556	19,625	14,248	1,154	1,733
Gillnet #7 Projection	9/30-10/3	575	23,800	19,800	2,800	1,200	1,200	250	300
Late Fall								100	
Total			246,077	200,627	24,356	20,825	15,448	1,504	2,033
Allowed				249,750			4,740	1,950	
Remaining				49,123				446	

Recommendation: 2013 Fall Season Treaty Commercial Gillnet Fishery		
Season:	6:00 AM Monday September 30 through 6:00 PM Thursday October 3	(3.5 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.	

- At the end of this week, the tribes project that the treaty fishery will have reached a 21.7% URB harvest rate and a 7.7% B steelhead harvest rate. Based on the projection for next week's fishery, the URB harvest rate at the end of next week would be 24.1% and the B steelhead harvest rate would be 10.0%.
- A B steelhead run of 11,600 would be needed for the tribal fishery to remain within allowed limits after the expected harvest in next week's tribal gillnet fishery and 100 B steelhead for the late fall platforms and possible Drano Lake fishery.
- Tribal staff will monitor fisheries and report catches on a weekly basis. Net counts will be done each week to determine fishing effort.
- The tribes will review catches and effort next week and determine if there is a possibility of additional fisheries after next week.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes may request a Compact Hearing to be held on Thursday 3 if there is an opportunity to consider an additional commercial gillnet fishing period.