

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**August 7, 2014**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty-Indian commercial salmon
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*Stock status, forecasts, and management guidelines for 2014 fall fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 29, 2014).*

**Stock Status and Management Guidelines**

- Through August 6, 2,492 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Fall chinook are all considered bright stock until mid-August when window counts are sub-sampled to estimate the number of tule stock Chinook. Fall Chinook counts have dropped to below average levels for the past three days, but typically less than 1% of the run passes by Aug 6. The clip rate at Bonneville for the first three days of the fall season was 25%. Fall Chinook typically reach 50% complete between September 8 and 15.
- Through August 6, 108,739 A and B Index steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam since July 1. The adipose fin clip rate for summer steelhead at Bonneville is approximately 48%. Given the very high clip rates for hatchery steelhead, this is an indication of good numbers of natural origin fish in the run. Only 6 steelhead (including 4 unclipped fish) out of 779 steelhead sampled at Bonneville since July 1 have been B Index fish. This is typical for this time of year as most B steelhead do not pass Bonneville until September.
- Six coho adults have passed Bonneville which is normal for this time of year.
- TAC will normally begin updating fall chinook run sizes around September 8 but typically will not have much certainty about B steelhead run sizes until around September 15.

**2014 Treaty-Indian Fisheries**

- Fall season platform and hook and line fishing has been open for both subsistence and commercial use since Aug. 1. Tribal staff will have the first week's catch estimate available next week. Fishing continues to be open downstream of Bonneville in areas covered by MOU's and MOA's with the states, but there has been no observed tribal effort yet in the fall season.
- Tribal staff have predicted harvest in early fall platform fisheries as well in a series of planned gillnet openings. Platform catch in the weeks with open gillnet fisheries is included with the gillnet catch estimate. Some sockeye catch will be occurring in the fall season fisheries. Tribal staff has not attempted to predict sockeye catch as plenty of sockeye remain available under the 7% harvest rate limit. The sockeye catch in the fall season is expected to be very small. The tribal fishery model also does not predict coho harvest, but coho harvest in the early fall is normally very small.

2014 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (projected catches)					
Fishery	Expected Effort (Nets)	Total Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead
Platforms through 8/17	na	200	200	780	20
Aug. 18-22 (4.5 days)	350	17,800	17,100	1,200	100
Aug 25-30 (5.5 days)	350	28,300	18,300	2,000	300
Sept. 2-6 (4.5 days)	550	52,100	28,200	2,600	400
Sept. 8-13 (5.5 days)	750	94,000	50,500	3,800	800
Sept. 15-19 (4.5 days)	700	91,500	53,000	4,200	1,200
<b>Total</b>		<b>283,900</b>	<b>167,300</b>	<b>14,580</b>	<b>2,820</b>
<b>Allowed at pre-season forecast</b>			275,670		4,638
<b>Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 19</b>			18%		9%
<b>Remaining after Sept 19</b>			108,370		1,818
<b>Remaining Harvest Rate</b>			12%		6%

*Projected catches are rounded.*

### ***Treaty Fishery Plan***

- The tribes met and agreed to the following commercial gillnet fishing periods.
- The tribes have decided to set a number of gillnet fishing periods at the beginning of the fall season in part to provide fishers and buyers certainty regarding the fishery and also because openings are primarily before the first run size updates.
- Setting longer fishing periods early in the run is one method to allow harvest of abundant Chinook stocks before the timeframe when most B steelhead are migrating through Zone 6.

2014 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery		
Season	6:00 AM Monday Aug. 18 to 6:00 PM Friday, Aug. 22 6:00 AM Monday Aug. 25 to 6:00 PM Saturday, Aug 30 6:00 AM Tuesday Sept. 2 to 6:00 PM Saturday, Sept. 6 6:00 AM Monday Sept. 8 to 6:00 PM Saturday Sept. 13 6:00 AM Monday Sept 15 to 6:00 PM Friday Sept 19	(4.5 days) (5.5 days) (4.5 days) (5.5 days) (4.5 days)
Area	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear including the standard Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary.	
Gear:	Gill nets with an 8 inch minimum mesh restriction	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (including chinook, sockeye, and coho) steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.	
Additional:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 <b>except</b> that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.	

- Catch expectations in the proposed fishery openings are well within the total allowed catches based on the pre-season forecast. The expected catches would be within the allowed harvest rates down to a URB run of 560,000 and a B steelhead run of 20,000. However the actual catch rates should be less than expected if the run sizes are smaller than forecast.
- The tribes will continue to monitor and report harvest on a weekly basis and will do net counts during each week of commercial gillnet fishing.
- Prices remain relatively strong and the fall fishery represents the most economically important tribal fishery and provides significant benefits to tribal families as well as to communities and businesses along the Columbia River.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The Columbia River joint staff is recommending a Compact hearing be scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday August 12 to consider non-Indian mainstem commercial fisheries, including a pilot seine fishery. Staff recommends the hearing be held at the Clark Regional Wastewater District office (8000 52nd Court, Vancouver, Washington).