

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
TRIBAL STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact
August 9, 2016

Fisheries under consideration: Treaty Commercial Gillnet fishery

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent report is the 2016 Fall Report (July 12, 2016). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

- The stock status and management guidelines were presented in summer Fall Fact Sheet #1.
- Through August 8, 6,415 fall Chinook and 6 coho have passed Bonneville Dam. Additionally 60,420 summer A and B Index steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam since July 1.
- While fall Chinook counts are above average for this time of year, the A and B Index steelhead counts are well below average and the total to date is less than half of the 10-year average of 127,000. It is too early to determine the Group A and B stock proportions.
- Approximately 29% of the fall Chinook at Bonneville are adipose fin-clipped to date. This is a sign that the run contains a significant number of wild fish.
- The river temperature at Bonneville has ranged from approximately 69 degrees to 71 degrees over the last week. The recent temperatures have sometimes been just higher than the average of 69-70 degrees for this time of year.

2016 Treaty Indian Fisheries

- Based on the pre-season Columbia River mouth forecasts of 579,600 fall Chinook and 25,800 Group B-steelhead, the corresponding impact limits under the MA for treaty Indian fisheries are 173,880 adult upriver bright fall Chinook and 3,870 B steelhead. Actual allowed catches will be based on actual run sizes.
- The tribes have modeled four weekly commercial gillnet fisheries along with projections for the platform fishery for early August. The projected catches are shown in the table below.

2016 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (projected catches)					
Fishery	Expected Effort (Set Nets)	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead
Platforms through 8/21	na	1,000	800	2,510	40
Aug 22-26 (4.5 days)	440	21,300	15,700	2,130	280
Aug 29 -Sept 2 (4.5 days)	570	44,400	29,600	2,640	360
Sept 5-9 (4.5 days)	685	66,700	44,800	3,080	600
Sept 12-16 (4.5 days)	670	56,900	38,500	3,670	940
Subtotal through Sept 16		190,300	129,400	14,030	2,220

Allowed at Pre-season Forecast	173,880	3,870
Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 16	22%	9%
Remaining after Sept 16	44,480	1,650
Remaining Harvest Rate After Sept 16	8%	11%

- The modeled catch rates are based on recent year average effort and harvest rates. Platform and hook and line harvest is included in the weekly gillnet projections.
- These fisheries are similar in structure to recent years. The tribes expect that there will be remaining URB and B steelhead impacts after these fisheries.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2016 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Season	6 AM Monday August 22 to 6 PM Friday August 26 6 AM Monday August 29 to 6 PM Friday September 2 6 AM Monday September 5 to 6 PM Friday September 9 6 AM Monday September 12 to 6 PM Friday September 16	(4.5 days) (4.5 days) (4.5 days) (4.5 days)
Area	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas in effect include standard dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear, including the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary.	
Gear:	Gill nets. 8-inch minimum mesh restriction	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and may be kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes	
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.	

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Set-net effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week. The tribes expect to set additional gillnet fishing time after these periods.
- Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries have been open for both subsistence and commercial use and do not require Compact action nor do Yakama tributary fisheries.
- The tribes will request a Compact Hearing Wednesday or Thursday September 14 or 15 to consider possible additional commercial gillnet openings.