

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5b
August 25, 2011

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial salmon gillnet
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STOCK STATUS and MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- The stock status and management guidelines were reported in Fact Sheet 1a.
- Current dam counts were reported in Fact Sheet 5a.

2011 Treaty Indian Fisheries

- Commercial sales of fish harvested in the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery are ongoing and do not require modification.
- Yakama tributary fisheries are also ongoing, which may include the Little White Salmon River (Drano Lake), and the White Salmon, Klickitat, and Icicle rivers. These fisheries do not require Compact action.
- The first week of tribal commercial gillnet fishing concludes today at 6:00 PM. There were 434 nets counted which is slightly less than the 450 nets predicted. The tribes do not have a catch estimate for this week's fishery, but preliminary information gathered from commercial buyers suggests the total catch is less than predicted. Given that only just over 29,000 fall Chinook have passed Bonneville, the initial catch projection is almost certainly much too high.
- The tribes propose to add two days to the previously set commercial gillnet fisheries. The proposed days are Monday August 29 and Saturday September 10. This will make these two weeks have 4.5 day fisheries instead of the previously set 3.5 day fisheries.
- Because 133 pink salmon have passed Bonneville Dam and occasionally tribal fishermen catch pinks and some may possibly be sold, the tribes also propose the allowance of commercial sale of pink salmon be added to all future gillnet openings as well as the ongoing platform and hook and line fishery. All other regulations will remain the same as previously set.
- The tribes utilize a fishery model based on historic catch rates to project harvest in the Zone 6 fishery. Adding two days, the tribes project only a slight increase in harvest compared to the previous projections in Fact Sheet 1b of up to 136,500 Chinook including almost 72,000 URB's in the first three openings depending on effort and run size and timing. The total B steelhead harvest is projected to be approximately 3,350 at the end of the first three openings. Projected harvest by opening is shown in the table on the following page.

Stat Week	# Days	6 AM Opening Date	6 PM Closing Date	Nets	Total Chinook	URB	Total Steelhead	Total B
Early	Aug	Platform			350	350	2,000	750
35	3.5	22-Aug	25-Aug	450	23,000	13,500	2,800	500
36	4.5	29-Aug	2-Sep	600	50,600	25,000	4,000	800
37	4.5	6-Sep	10-Sep	650	62,600	32,700	4,700	1,300
Total	12.5				136,550	71,550	13,500	3,350

- The planned fisheries are well within the allowed harvest rate based on the pre-season forecast and are expected to be low enough to allow the tribes to adjust subsequent openings if the run sizes should be less than forecast.
- The tribes will continue to monitor the tribal fishery and report catches and will make any needed changes to keep the fishery within its allowed impacts.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Treaty Indian Fall Season Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season	6 AM Monday August 29 to 6 PM Friday September 2 6 AM Tuesday September 6 to 6 PM Saturday September 10	(4.5 days) (4.5 days)
Area	Zones 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries apply. The standard Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary (1.5 miles downstream to 1 mile upstream of the hatchery ladder) will be in effect.	
Gear:	Gill nets with a minimum mesh size of 8 inches.	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, pink salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sockeye may not be sold, but may be 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.	
	Sales of fish caught during open gillnet periods are allowed after the end of the open period, as long as the fish were landed during the open period.	
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers.	

The tribes also propose that pink salmon be added to the allowed species authorized for commercial sale in the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries as well as tribal fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam that occur concurrent with state/tribal MOUs/MOAs.

Future Meetings

- The tribes will request a Compact on September 8 to set fisheries for the week of September 12.