

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET NO. 12b
Columbia River Compact
September 23, 2015

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty commercial salmon
--------------------------------	--------------------------

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

Detailed stock status and management guidelines for 2015 fall season fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 29, 2015).

- Through September 22, 755,455 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. This includes 643,054 brights and 112,401 tules. The bright Chinook run is higher than the pre-season forecasts and the Spring Creek tule Chinook run is below the pre-season forecast.
- TAC updated the upriver Chinook runs to 734,900 upriver bright (URB) Chinook, 148,900 mid-Columbia bright (MCB) and 139,500 Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) tule Chinook (518,300, 113,330 and 163,900 pre-season, respectively). TAC will continue to meet each Monday and will continue to update the fall chinook run sizes. At the forecast run size the tribal fishery has a 30% harvest rate on URB fall Chinook. At the current forecast run sizes, the URB run, the combined upriver run and the total fall chinook run will each be the second largest on record since Bonneville Dam construction. The cumulative total adult fall chinook return to Lower Granite Dam is also the largest since the construction of Lower Granite Dam.
- Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery has reported that they have met their broodstock goal of 7,000 fish (4,000 females) and that they have begun to surplus extra fish.
- A and B index steelhead counts since July 1 total 230,630. Steelhead are tracking behind expectations. On September 21 TAC updated the total A/B Index steelhead run to 250,000 at Bonneville and the B Index steelhead to 20,000 fish (5,200 wild). If the B steelhead run is 20,000 or above, the harvest rate is 15% and below 20,000, the harvest rate drops to 13%.
- Through September 22, 23,235 adult coho have passed Bonneville Dam. Coho have been tracking behind expectations. TAC currently expects the early run coho (through September) to be approximately 27,000 compared to a pre-season expectation of over 140,000. This will be the smallest early run since 1997.

2015 Fall Season Fisheries

- Preliminary catches are shown in the table below. Additionally 1,827 coho and approximately 100 sockeye have been caught to date in fall season fisheries to date.
- For modeling purposes, the tribes have assumed a B steelhead run size of just under 20,000.
- Treaty platform and hook and line fisheries are on-going for both subsistence and commercial purposes.
- Two tribes have open fisheries downstream of Bonneville. Catch and effort downstream of Bonneville has generally been very low. The tribes will continue to monitor this area and report any catch that occurs.

- 464 set nets were counted during this week’s survey. Effort normally declines during the second half of September.

2015 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary catches)					
Fishery	Expected Effort (Nets)	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead
Platforms through 8/16	na	953	517	1,570	330
Aug. 17-21 (4.5 days)	296	5,498	3,936	1,541	15
Aug 24-28 (4.5 days)	401	9,484	6,055	1,323	32
Aug. 31 -Sept. 5 (5.5 days)	569	44,643	23,088	2,209	169
Sept. 8-12 (4.5 days)	671	63,419	32,798	2,172	169
Sept. 15-19 (5.5 days) projected	542	69,083	35,728	2,904	531
Subtotal		193,080	102,122	11,719	1,246
Sept. 22-25 (4.5 days) projected	464	37,600	19,400	2,700	600
Sept 28- Oct 1 (3.5 days) Projected	450	24,700	17,300	1,900	520
Anticipated need for late fall platform fisheries		500	400	400	150
Total		255,880	139,222	16,719	2,516
Allowed at updated URB Forecast and B steelhead Run.			220,470		2,599
Harvest Rate as of Sept 19			14%		6%
Remaining after Sept 19			118,348		1,353
Expected Harvest Rate by Oct 1			19%		12.6%
Remaining after Oct 1			81,248		83
Remaining Harvest Rate After Oct. 1			11%		0.4%

- Platform and hook and line harvest (above and below Bonneville Dam) is included in each week’s reported gillnet catch.

Tribal Fishery Plan

Treaty Commercial Salmon

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted the following regulations:

2015 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery		
Season:	6 AM Monday September 28 to 6 PM Thursday October 1 2015	(3.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. The Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary will be a 150 foot radius around the hatchery	

	ladder.
Gear:	Gill nets with an 8” minimum mesh restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (all species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. 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.
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.

- The expected catch in the planned fishery is within the harvest rate limit at a B steelhead run size of just under 20,000. Without taking any action to restrict the platform fishery, the tribal fishery is expected to be within the allowed B harvest rate limit down to run sizes of 19,360. The 150 B steelhead held for late fall platform fisheries, could be used as an additional buffer if needed as well.
- The tribes will conduct an effort survey by air each week of commercial gillnet fishing and monitor and report catches weekly.
- If TAC upgrades the B steelhead run size next week, or if this week’s B steelhead catch is less than modeled, the tribes may want to consider adding a day to next week’s fishery.

Future Meetings

- The tribes may request a Compact Hearing during the week of September 28 if warranted to address any appropriate changes in tribal fishing regulations.