

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 15**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 11, 2008**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial
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*Run forecasts for the 2008 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 22, 2008)*

**2008 Run Sizes**

- Through September 10, 224,539 total adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. 286,187 A and B Index steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam since July 1. 50,088 adult coho have passed Bonneville Dam.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has met September 5, September 8, and September 11. On September 11, TAC upgraded the forecast for the Upriver Bright (URB) run to 194,700 fish to the Columbia River mouth. Bright passage at Bonneville Dam appears to be running slightly earlier (2-4 days) than the recent 10-year average. The BPH forecast at the river mouth is now expected to be 103,200 with 91,300 expected at Bonneville.
- Spring Creek hatchery has had 19,283 tules enter the hatchery. However, because they are collecting broodstock throughout the run, they have retained only roughly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of their needed broodstock (7,000). The hatchery expects to collect the remainder of their needed fish within the next 7-10 days.
- Coho counts are tracking higher than predicted for this time of year. The early run coho will be greater than forecast at Bonneville.
- Preliminary analysis of steelhead data at Bonneville suggests both the total A steelhead run maybe somewhat above or below the pre-season forecast. Sampling data suggest the total B steelhead run size is significantly above forecast with a total of approximately 51,000 B steelhead passed Bonneville to date. TAC updated the B steelhead run size to a minimum of 70,000 at Bonneville. The run could be up to approximately 90,000.

**Treaty Indian Fisheries**

- Tribal fall season fisheries will be managed for a 23% harvest rate on the river mouth URB run size. They will also be managed for a 15% harvest rate on the combined hatchery and wild B-Index steelhead run size. These harvest rates are part of the 2008-2017 U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement.
- Platform hook and line fisheries in Zone 6 have been ongoing since June 16. Commercial sales have been allowed. Yakama Nation tributary and below Bonneville Dam fisheries are also in place. There has been no recent effort in the below Bonneville Dam fishery.
- Preliminary catch estimates and catch projections are shown in the table below. Total catch estimates are available for the first three weeks fishing and effort is available for the first three weeks. CWT data are available for the first three commercial fishing periods. Projected harvest are based on recent year averages harvest rates for the

fourth and proposed fifth week of fishing. Projected effort for the fifth week is assumed to be the same as this week's actual effort which is a record number of nets for recent years. Early August platform catches were less than anticipated.

2008 Zone 6 Fall Treaty Harvests													
				Total Adult Chinook	URB	URB Rate	MCB	BPH	Other	Total Steelhead	Total A	Total B	Total B Harvest Rate
Platform				50	35	0.0%	2	4	9	1469	1381	88	0.1%
Week	Dates	Days	Nets	Total Adult Chinook	URB	URB Rate	MCB	BPH	Other	Total Steelhead	Total A	Total B	Total B Harvest Rate
34	8/19-8/22	3.5	297	2,057	1,428	0.7%	68	160	401	914	675	239	0.3%
35	8/26-8/29	3.5	465	21,895	9,515	4.9%	359	11,690	315	1,183	691	492	0.7%
36	9/2-9/6	4.5	602	35,695	6,298	3.2%	5,318	23,962	74	4,026	2,324	1,702	2.4%
Subtotal				59,697	17,276	8.9%	5,747	35,816	799	7,592	5,071	2,521	3.6%
37	9/9-9/12	3.5	663	43,578	14,030	7.2%	3,710	25,838	0	3,562	1,289	2,273	3.2%
Subtotal				103,275	31,306	16.1%	9,457	61,654	799	11,154	6,360	4,794	6.8%
38		2.5	660	25,338	12,299	6.3%	2,765	10,274	0	5,658	1,492	4,166	6.0%
Total				128,613	43,605	22.4%	12,222	71,928	799	16,812	7,852	8,960	12.8%

- Net counts will be made by air during each weekly commercial fishing period in the fall season.
- State and tribal staff work cooperatively to estimate total catches and sample fisheries to determine the stock composition of the catch. Catches will be reported as they become available.
- The tribes may propose an additional commercial gillnet fishery at a later date if catches are less than expected or if run sizes are larger.

### **Impacts**

#### URB Fall Chinook

- Treaty Indian harvest is projected to be 43,605 URBs through September 18. Based on the pre-season run size, this would equate to a 22.4% harvest rate which provides a small buffer should catches be higher than anticipated.

#### Steelhead

- Treaty Indian harvest is projected to be close to 8,960 B-Index steelhead through September 18. Based on the pre-season run size, this would equate to a 12.8% harvest rate, which is well within the impact limit.

### **Recommendation**

<i>Treaty Indian Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Dates:	6:00 AM Tuesday, Sept. 16 to 6:00 PM Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008	2.5 Days
Area:	All of Zone 6	
Gear:	There will be an 8” minimum mesh size restriction	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to these gear types remain in effect including the standard Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary.	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, sockeye, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold. Sturgeon between 4-5 feet in length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be retained for subsistence. Sturgeon between 42-60 inches in the Bonneville Pool may also be retained for subsistence.	
Additional	<b>24-hour</b> Quick reporting rule in effect for Washington buyers	

- The Yakama Nation Zone-6 tributary fisheries as well as the below Bonneville Washington shore bank fishery were previously considered by the Compact and do not require action at this time.
- The expected catches are within the harvest limits in the U.S. v. Oregon 2008-2017 Management Agreement.