



# The Dipnetter

published for tribal fishers by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

## March 2010

- CRITFC: A Tool of the Tribes
- In-lieu/Treaty Fishing Access Site Clean-up
- Self-inflating Lifejacket Maintenance

above: Dipnetters on Standing Island at Celilo Falls, August 1952. (Chief Island is on the left.) Photo from the Raymond Matheny collection.



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CRITFC  
Executive Director  
Paul Lumley

## Executive Director's Message A Tool of the Tribes

This year marks the 33rd anniversary of the Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce tribes' union to protect salmon and the treaty rights to harvest them. Born out of a time of dwindling salmon runs and a relentless threat to tribal treaty fishing rights and sovereignty, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission has been a valuable tool in its member tribes' fight. For a third of a century, CRITFC has been an example of the power the tribes wield, particularly when they combine forces. Few other inter-tribal organizations have had the success of CRITFC in accomplishing the goals of the tribes. Part of this success comes from the shared salmon culture of its member tribes and the trust they placed in one another when they agreed to combine their management authority. 🐟

### What is CRITFC?

In 1977, the four Columbia River treaty tribes—the Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce—united to address the decline of salmon in the Columbia River Basin and to combine forces to effectively manage this resource. These tribes recognized the need to coordinate many of their fishery policies and objectives and hire a staff that could help efficiently deal with many legal and technical issues they had in common. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission was born out of this unified effort.

The tribes, in their wisdom, set up CRITFC to be a common tool of the individual tribes. They set up

CRITFC to operate on a consensus model, which means that any decision made by the Commission must have the approval of all four tribes; three of the member tribes cannot overrule the objections of a fourth tribe as would be the case in a majority rules system. One of the initial purposes of the Commission was to provide a venue for the four tribes to coordinate their fishing season regulations. The Commission does not set fishing season regulations for the member tribes, as that is a sovereign right each tribe has unto itself.

In the early years, CRITFC mainly provided assistance to the tribes to ensure that tribal fishers could exercise treaty-reserved fishing rights. The 1969 *U.S. v Oregon* federal court decision had affirmed those rights and clarified tribal management responsibilities.

As the Columbia River salmon crisis deepened, CRITFC's efforts have grown to assist the tribes in using legal and technical means to protect and restore salmon. Commission staff coordinated with tribal policy makers and tribal fish and wildlife staff to produce a salmon restoration plan, *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit* (Spirit of the Salmon). The plan blends the wisdom developed from observing salmon for thousands of years with the principles of conservation biology, a science based on rebuilding populations of animals pushed to the brink of extinction.

Our restoration efforts are benefiting salmon, but by themselves, they are not enough. It will take all of us who live here in the Columbia Basin to rescue our salmon from extinction; we must use our successes as patterns for other restoration efforts. We have a duty to salmon, to ourselves, to those who follow us. 🐟





### Meet David Costas, CRITFC's new hatchery production coordinator

Riding my bike throughout an abandoned Girl Scout camp behind our suburban Richmond, Virginia home was my way of connecting to the natural world during my youth. Memories of riding in those woods and visiting my great uncle's Polled Hereford farm in central Virginia shaped my perspective in a key way – they secured a place within where I could draw some measure of purpose. After completing an enlistment with the U.S. Coast Guard, I earned a fisheries degree from SUNY Cobleskill College and headed to Idaho to work on the Redfish Lake sockeye program with the Idaho Department of Fish & Game. Since then I have worked for state and federal fish and wildlife agencies in New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Oregon. My current work with CRITFC will focus on coordination of hatchery production for the John Day/Dalles mitigation program. My professional interests include alternative fish rearing techniques and incorporating traditional ecological knowledge in fish culture. I am honored to work for the tribes, and eager to engage my interests in tribal culture and fishery management in a new and unique environment. 🐟



Gene Shippentower describing the CTUIR natural origin versus hatchery origin steelhead reproductive success study during a tour of the Iskuulpa Creek weir project. The tour was a part of a tribal salmon reintroduction workshop put on by CRITFC in February. The workshop, hosted by CTUIR at the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, gathered over 60 tribal, state, and federal scientists to discuss the science of salmon reintroduction in the Columbia Basin.

### Let our numbers be counted

Every 10 years, the federal government is constitutionally required to count each and every citizen of the nation. The primary reason for the census is to determine Congressional representation, however it is particularly important to tribal people. Because of the tribes' unique legal and political status, we qualify for federal funding across a broad range of programs. This includes funds for housing, health care, education, job creation, environmental services, and so on. The number of individuals in a tribe determines the amount that is allocated for these programs. In the past, undercounts have hurt tribes by lowering the federal funding and representation they should be entitled to.

The census short form includes just 10 questions and takes only a few minutes to complete. Please take the time to provide this information that can greatly help tribal people in this region and throughout the United States.

Census questionnaires will be mailed by April 1st and census workers will conduct more in-depth interviews with randomly selected households through July. For more information, contact the tribal partnership specialists for this region: Ethel Greene - (208) 215-8599 (ethel.l.greene@census.gov) or Scherri Greene - (208) 277-6293 (riverrat@olynet.com). 🐟



## In-lieu/Treaty Fishing Access Site 2010 Clean-up

The O&M crew has been working on its second major clean up of abandoned personal property left on the In-lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites. The materials gathered in the clean-up fall into four categories. These categories and their fates are as follows:

- 1) **Unsalvageable materials:** Disposed of.
- 2) **Salvageable personal property (excl. fishing gear):** Items catalogued and stored at the O&M facility until the next commercial gill net season, after which they will be disposed of.
- 3) **Salvageable fishing gear:** Items catalogued and stored at an O&M facility for one year before being given to the CRITFE abandoned fishing gear program.
- 4) **Abandoned titled property (vehicles, boats, etc.):** Property moved to a holding facility and a notification published in local and tribal newspapers. 30 days after the last publication, any unclaimed property will be disposed of. As of Feb. 1, 27 pieces of abandoned titled property have been disposed of and 39 items are in the public notification process. (See list below.)

If you had abandoned personal property, fishing gear, or titled property on any of the In-lieu or Treaty Fishing Access Sites, it can be reclaimed within the timelines listed above by contacting the O&M crew at (503) 296-6010 or (503) 866-8375.

Description	License
<b>CASCADE LOCKS IN-LIEU SITE:</b>	
Blue/green Hydroswift tri-hull boat	817DM
White Chrysler 300 sedan	none
Green Ford 150 ¾-ton truck	OR 046 CVG
White Aristocrat Lo-Line trailer	OR R464150
Only Prowler trailer	0865-PS
10' V-hull boat	OR 329A1
18' green/white tri-hull boat trailer	1921
17' off-white V-hull boat	OR 435EC
18' yellow/white RV	OR R550871
16' white/gray V-hull boat	OR 880BL
<b>NORTH BONNEVILLE IN-LIEU SITE:</b>	
Red Toyota King-Cab truck	WA A3566D
17' red/white V-hull boat and trailer	WA WN2658E
17' blue/white V-hull boat and trailer	none
17' white V-hull boat w/ trailer	WN986C4
Caveman camper	none
17' white V-hull boat	none
Red Chevy S10	WA A90204M
Gray Ford Escort LX	WA 789 YOC
Blue Dodge van	OR TMU 927
16' white/blue V-hull boat	WA FS8836
<b>COOKS LANDING IN-LIEU SITE:</b>	
16' White/green Breezy V-hull boat	WN5969T
18' green/white tri-hull boat	none
White 13' Boston Whaler tri-hull boat	none
16' yellow/white tri-hull boat	none
14' white/red V-hull boat	none
19' white/green tri-hull boat	none
16' white tri-hull boat	none
13' wht/grn tri-hull boat w/ motor	none
14' wht/grn tri-hull boat w/motor	WN2981NH
12' white trailer	WA W57925
White Ford Ranger XL	WA A43016A
Rust Ford Ranger F100 Super Cab	WA A16606I
Blue GMC Truck	WA 684HUA
17' white/blue Olympic V-hull boat	none
8' green/white trailer	none

### Fisher Safety

### Inflatable lifejacket maintenance

You never know when disaster will strike and you will need your self-inflating personal flotation device (PFD) to properly activate. For this reason, it's important to keep your PFD maintained and ready to go. An inflatable PFD is a mechanical device requiring regular maintenance. Maintain the inflatable portion of the PFD as instructed in the owner's manual. Here are some tips to keep your PFD in top condition:

- Before each outing, check the status of the inflator and that the CO2 cylinder has not been used, has no leaks, and is screwed in tightly.
- Occasionally check that the PFD itself has no leaks by removing the CO2 cylinder and inflate the PFD with the mouthpiece. The PFD should still be firm after several hours.
- After an inflatable PFD has been inflated using a cylinder, replace the spent cylinder and re-arm it.

The self-inflating PFD subsidy program for tribal fishers is still going on. This program reduces the price of select self-inflating PFDs by \$50. Contact The Dalles Marine Supply at (541) 296-4111 for eligibility requirements and more information. 🐟

