

The Dipnetter

News of the River from the
Columbia River Inter-Tribal
Fish Commission



September 2011

2011 FISHERS EXPO HIGHLIGHTS

The 2011 Columbia River Indian Fishers Expo built upon the success of last year's event, increasing the number of attendees, fine-tuning the information that was presented to the fishers, increasing the community involvement, and weaving the topic of safety throughout the day.

The event attracted over 200 people.

Of these attendees, 135 were fishers and their families. The balance consisted of tribal elected officials and leaders, tribal and CRITFC staff members, and various mayors and other community leaders. The mayors of Hood River, White Salmon,

and Mosier as well as a representative from the City of The Dalles welcomed the gathered fishers during the morning opening ceremony. Other community leaders included representatives from several chambers of commerce and the ports of Hood River, Cascade Locks, The Dalles, and Bingen.

The expo was separated into morning and afternoon classes that repeated to ensure fishers the opportunity to take all

the classes they liked. Cold-water survival techniques, boating safety, maintaining and repairing boat engines, and basic fiberglass repair were all quite popular. Classes were also offered on different ways to increase the quality of products fishers sell to the public through various marketing techniques for Indian-caught salmon. Many also took the opportunity to take a food handling class. Successfully completing this class gave attendees a food handling certification from the Warm Springs Tribe that is honored by the State of Oregon.

The expo's trade show consisted of thirteen vendors. Displays on water safety, packaging materials, fishing supply businesses and tribal crafts gave attendees a broad range of information. Some of the more prominent vendors were the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The Dalles Marine Supply, and England Marine Supply.

The Salmon Marketing program distributed applications for over-the-bank sales kit grants. Twenty-seven applications were received for the four grants to help recipients set up a quality over-the-bank sales location. Salmon Marketing staff is currently in the process of selecting the winners.

Raffles were held throughout the day. Over \$5,000 worth of prizes was secured, including 30 self-inflating life jackets that are now in the hands of fishers on the river. Additional prizes included a Pendleton blanket, a Wildhorse get-away package, over \$500 worth of Columbia Sportswear, cash, and art. Holding multiple drawings throughout the day helped keep many of the attendees at the event throughout the day. *-continued-*



Prior to lunch, the U.S. Coast Guard demonstrated an in-river helicopter rescue in the Columbia River just outside the event venue. This proved quite popular and attracted quite a bit of attention from other hotel guests as well as the surrounding community who saw and heard the rescue helicopter.

Plans are underway for next year's Expo. Additional class and presentation ideas, children's educational opportunities, and distributing information about the event via text message are all being discussed to help make this annual event something that is truly useful for all the Indian fishers along the Columbia River. 🐟

Spotted Salmon Mystery Solved!

BY BLAINE PARKER, CRITFC FISHERIES MGMT DEPT



Blaine Parker

Genetic testing done by CRITFC's Hagerman Genetics Laboratory confirmed that the unusually spotted salmon caught in July (*see the August Dipnetter*) was a full species chinook with no evidence of hybridization. Initial theories questioned whether the fish was perhaps a cross between a chinook and Atlantic salmon or an undocumented salmon subspecies. Jeff Stephenson of the Hagerman Lab used a variety of genetic tests to verify the species status of the fish in question. Using genetic marker tests, he eliminated such species as sockeye, coho, and steelhead. Subsequent marker tests determined the fish as a chinook. Once the species was known, the lab ran a final marker test that scans for genetic microsatellites that can identify a salmon down to its subpopulation. This test determined that the sample was a Mid-Columbia spring chinook.

If you catch something unfamiliar and would like to confirm whether or not it belongs in the Columbia River, please contact Blaine Parker or Stuart Ellis at CRITFC (503) 238-0667. You may also contact or deliver it to the CRITFC office in Hood River so the fish can be frozen. **Remember, do not clean it!** It is very important to scientifically investigate these fishes and document the sightings so it can be determined if new fish species or hybrids of known species are living in the Columbia River. 🐟



Stuart Ellis

Fall Fishery Update

BY CRITFC HARVEST BIOLOGIST STUART ELLIS

The fall mainstem fishery management season began on August 1. The tribes set a commercial sturgeon setline fishery in all three pools August 1-13. Effort has been moderate in this fishery. Catches were not available as of press time.

The tribes also set three 3½-day commercial gillnet fisheries. These dates are August 22-25, August 30-September 2, and September 6-9. Each fishery opening uses an eight-inch minimum mesh size restriction to limit the harvest of steelhead. The tribes will meet periodically to consider catch and run size data as it is available and make any appropriate adjustments to fisheries to ensure the best fishing opportunities and ensure overall catches are meeting expectations.

The tribes are expected to set fall fisheries after September 9 on a weekly basis. Fisheries may be different from what was planned initially. This is because catches, run sizes, and run timing are never exactly as expected. The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee, which is comprised of tribal, state and federal biologists, will begin updating run sizes sometime around September 8. 🐟

CRITFC Officers and Commissioners

YAKAMA



Gerald Lewis, CRITFC chairman
Richard George · Johnny Jackson
Sam Jim, Sr · Virgil Lewis, Sr
Wilbur Slockish, Jr
(509) 865-5121

UMATILLA



Kathryn Brigham, CRITFC vice-chairwoman
James Marsh · Mitch Pond · Vince
Sohappy · Chris Williams
(541) 276-3165

NEZ PERCE



Joel Moffett, CRITFC secretary
Brooklyn Baptiste · Julia Davis-
Wheeler · Larry Greene · Dan Kane
Joanna Marek · McCoy Oatman
Allen Slickpoo, Jr · Roberta Bisbee
Marie Arthur · Elmer Crow · Erik Holt
Herb Jackson · Wilfred Scott
(208) 843-2253

WARM SPRINGS



Bruce Jim, CRITFC treasurer
Leslie Bill · Rafael Queahpama
Ryan Smith · Emerson Squiemphen
Donnie Winishut, Sr
(541) 553-3257

Site Dispute Resolution Protocol

BY CRITFC LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Over the past few years, there has been a steady increase in the number of site disputes that occur along the Columbia River. Often the first reaction fishers have is to contact CRITFC Enforcement, but this takes already limited resources off the river we'd rather use to focus on protecting the fishery resources. For this reason, CRITFC and the member tribes recently developed a protocol for fishers to deal with site disputes that arise along the river. Hopefully you won't have a reason to use them, but just in case, please acquaint yourself with these steps. This list is also available on the CRITFC website. ➡

COLUMBIA RIVER INDIAN FISHER SITE DISPUTE PROTOCOL

STEP 1. Try to resolve the dispute directly with the other involved fishers. In many of the cases from the past few years, the disputing fishers hadn't even spoken with one another before CRITFC Enforcement involvement.

STEP 2. If you cannot resolve a site dispute between yourselves, contact your tribe to get assistance. (*Contact information is listed below.*) Provide them with the fishing site, all the fishers involved, and any other information that may help resolve the site dispute, such as site registration documents and maps.

Do not take matters into your own hands. No action should be taken against others involved or another's property, including nets in the water. Handling of another's property may result in criminal violations.

STEP 3. If your tribe does not act to resolve the dispute in a timely manner, contact CRITFC Enforcement (541-386-6363). A CRITFC Enforcement Case Report will not be initiated until Steps 1 and 2 are followed. Contact CRITFC Enforcement at any time if you believe you are concerned for your personal safety or immediate loss of property.

STEP 4. Continue to cooperate with tribal law enforcement and/or CRITFC Enforcement as a way to resolve the site dispute at the fishers' level. If the resolution is not satisfactory, contact your tribe's Fish and Wildlife Committee.

STEP 5. Abide by the decision of your tribe. Tribal law enforcement and CRITFC Enforcement have no authority to hear appeals to tribal decisions, they are merely there to enforce tribal law and decisions. If you would like to appeal a tribal ruling, direct it to your respective tribal officials and not tribal law enforcement and/or CRITFC Enforcement.

Tribal Contacts for Site Dispute Reporting

These are contacts only and will facilitate the gathering and transfer of information so a decision can be made at the policy level

Yakama Nation

Steve Parker
(509) 945-0786

Roger Dick II
(509) 945-0771

Conf. Umatilla Tribes

Gary James
(541) 429-7285

Preston Bronson
(541) 429-7277 or
(541) 969-3128 (cell)

Nez Perce Tribe

Dan Kane
(208) 790-1461

Joe Oatman
(208) 816-6641

Conf. Warm Springs Tribes

Mark Manion
(541) 553-2042 x 263

25 AUG 2011

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Yakama • Warm Springs
Umatilla • Nez Perce



Welcoming new officers

During the Fishers Expo last month, CRITFE chairman Gerald Lewis got the opportunity to swear in two new CRITFC Enforcement officers. The oath they swore, which all CRITFC officers make, includes promises to respect the laws, traditions, and customs of the four member tribes and to give help and assistance particularly to the fishers in Zone 6 who are exercising their treaty-reserved fishing rights. I'd like to introduce these two officers: Officer Larry Risley and Officer Scott Weber.

Officer Risley came to CRITFE with previous law enforcement experience. He has worked for Portland Police Bureau and Washington County Sheriff's Office (as a corrections officer). He has a BS Degree in Business Management and an AA Degree in Fire Protection. He is EMT-1 certified with five years of ambulance experience.

Officer Weber came to CRITFE with previous law enforcement experience with the Washington County Sheriff's Office. He was also a private security officer

critfc executive director's message

for a major Northwest retail chain. Officer Weber is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

Please join me in welcoming these two new officers who will be patrolling Zone 6 in our effort to protect the treaty rights, resources, and fishers out on the Columbia River.



Paul Lumley
YAKAMA



CRITFC Enforcement Chief Davis Washines (left) visits with new officers Risley (center), and Weber after the swearing in ceremony at the Expo.



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Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

729 NE Oregon, Suite 200

Portland, OR 97232

www.critfc.org • (503) 238-0667

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In preparation for the Condit Dam removal, volunteers will be removing abandoned boats at the mouth of the White Salmon River on **Sept. 17**. If you have a boat there, please remove it before then so it is not mistaken for abandoned.

