

# The Dipnetter

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



June 2012

## CRITFC Executive Director's Message

### A FOCUS ON CLEAN WATER

Last month, CRITFC was honored with a Washington DC visitor: Lisa P. Jackson, the Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Due to the importance of the meeting, CRITFC invited leaders from all the Columbia River tribes.

Over 20 tribal leaders representing the 15 tribes of the Columbia River Basin participated in the meeting, including CRITFC tribal leaders. The meeting went extremely well. Many items were discussed including toxics reduction efforts, environmental justice, climate change, Columbia River Treaty issues, coal transportation, and mining issues.

Of particular focus were tribal concerns about Columbia River Basin water quality standards and whether they are protective enough for tribal communities. Thanks to tribal efforts, Oregon now has the strictest water quality standard in the nation. This

was accomplished by using a CRITFC fish consumption survey completed in 1994 that showed that tribal members eat much more fish than the national average. We are now working hard to amend water quality standards in Washington and Idaho as well.

Last week, I was asked to make a presentation at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians conference. I spoke on the need for water quality standards to be protective of tribal members who eat more fish than the general public. An ATNI resolution was also passed that thanks EPA for denying Idaho's proposed standards. The resolution supports using accurate tribal fish consumption rates and taking these rates into account in fish contamination studies in Idaho.

These topics will also be discussed at the upcoming CRITFC-hosted Columbia River Toxics Reduction Workshop. We hope to develop a

framework for decision-making and action on toxic reduction efforts in the Columbia Basin.

This is hard work. The CRITFC Watershed Department has been leading this effort with strong support from CRITFC's four member tribes. We are also getting very important support from the 57 tribes of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. Columbia River Indians have always held sacred our water and our salmon. Part of CRITFC's mission is to protect the watersheds where fish live. Making sure the water that flows in those watersheds is clean and pure is of the utmost importance, not just for the fish, but for human health and our tribal culture, too. By gaining allies from all levels of government, we are making a difference for the future so that our water and our salmon will be free of contamination.

*Bobby P. Lumley*



CRITFC staff who coordinated the meeting between the US EPA and the Columbia River Basin tribes (l to r): Laura Gephart, Watershed Programs Coordinator; Paul Lumley, CRITFC Executive Director; Lisa Jackson, US EPA Administrator; Aja DeCoteau, Watershed Department Manager; Dianne Barton, Water Quality Coordinator; Mary Lou Soscia, EPA Columbia River Coordinator.

## River Flow Update

KYLE DITTMER, CRITFC METEOROLOGIST/HYDROLOGIST

The May 22 update from NOAA's National Weather Service indicates another big snowmelt episode just caused tributary rivers to rise. This was the second major peak flow in the lower Columbia. That means river currents will speed up. River conditions could be dangerous for fishers. The third and main peak flow of the lower Columbia will occur in late May then recede to lower summer flows.

Snowpack accumulation is still good in the Washington and North Oregon Cascades (110-175% of normal), steady in the Canadian Rockies (90-125% of normal), and melting in the Clearwater (50-110% of normal) and Umatilla (50-90% of normal). All the low elevation snow is gone. Current snow levels are about 5,000 feet. 🐟



## Fisheries Update

STUART ELLIS, CRITFC HARVEST BIOLOGIST

The spring chinook are still passing Bonneville Dam. Treaty and non-treaty mainstem fisheries are both managed with harvest rates based on the actual (not forecast) river mouth run size. The run has come in lower than forecast, but it should be fairly close to last year's spring run size. Tribal ceremonial permit fishing is complete with 9,700 fish taken with ceremonial permits. Platform and hook-and-line fishing is continuing. Commercial sales have been allowed for these fish. The tribes have been hopeful that they can allow some commercial gillnet fishing, but so far the run size has not been quite high enough to fit a gillnet fishery in with the other harvest that has occurred. If it turns out to be possible, the tribes would like to schedule a commercial gillnet fishery in early June, however it is too early in the season to make this determination. We will get word out when the tribes make any decisions regarding a commercial gillnet fishery. To get fisheries announcements on your cell phone as a text message, send a text message to the number **55958** with "**critfc**" in the body of the text. Calling the number will not work. This must be done as a text message from your cell phone. 🐟

*CRITFC's current and past employees and commissioners at the organization's 35th anniversary celebration on April 27. The event featured speakers, an honor song, a salmon dinner, and the sharing of many memories from CRITFC's past three and half decades of work and dedication to support tribal treaty fishing rights and the salmon resource.*

## CRITFC Officers and Commissioners

### YAKAMA



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

### UMATILLA



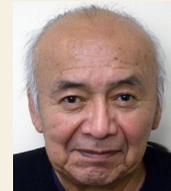
**Kathryn Brigham**, CRITFC vice-  
chairwoman  
James Marsh · Mitch Pond  
Vince Sohapp · Chris Williams  
(541) 276-3165

### NEZ PERCE



**Joel Moffett**, CRITFC secretary  
Brooklyn Baptiste · Roberta Bisbee  
Dan Kane · McCoy Oatman  
Samuel Penney · Allen Slickpoo Jr  
Silas Whitman · Marie Arthur  
Quentin Ellenwood · Erik Holt ·  
Herb Jackson · Timothy Wheeler  
(208) 843-2253

### WARM SPRINGS



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

# FISHERS EXPO

## MOVING QUALITY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

LES BROWN, SALMON MARKETING COORDINATOR

The annual Columbia River Indian Fishers Expo is just a month away. The theme of this year's event is "moving quality in your fishing business to the next level."

Whether you fish by scaffold, dip nets, gillnets, or hook-and-line this year's Columbia River Indian Fishers Expo has something for you. Come and learn not only the fundamental practices of taking care of your fish and river safety and marketing but also how to keep more from what you sell and maximizing your profits.

This one-day event on July 27 at the Hood River Inn (just to the east of the Hood River bridge) will give you and your family or crew some great choices to improve your family business. The event will include a breakfast and lunch, drawings, and much more.

Some of the workshops and displays planned for this year include:

### River Safety

- Demonstrations
- The latest in personal safety gear and how to use it
- Latest safety information
- Options on where to buy safety materials and devices

### Taking Care of the Fish

- Demonstrations
- Proper icing, ice slushing, and packing your fish.
- The latest in gilling, gutting, and icing your fish using for example: the "princess cut" when the customers ask.
- Options on where to buy supplies, knives, boxes and other materials.

### The Art of the Sale

The "How to" workshop to help you increase your profits through promoting your family business and keep customers coming back by applying these fundamentals

- Preparation
- Presentation
- Delivering
- Follow-up

### Setting up your family business

- Fundamentals for good record keeping so you can know how things are going and what you can do to improve them
- Records can also help you have the

documentation sometimes needed to get a business loan

### Fishing Resources

- Purchasing options
- Local, regional, and nation options
- Fishing supplies, scales, vacuum pack machines

### Expo Displays/Presentations

- Engine repair
- Boat design (In process)
- Fiber glassing (In process)
- Inexpensive mobile credit card processing solutions

*(Presentations listed are still tentative and may change before the event.)*

Look for next month's Dipnetter with even more details, information, and schedules for this annual event. 🐟

## COLUMBIA RIVER INDIAN FISHER'S



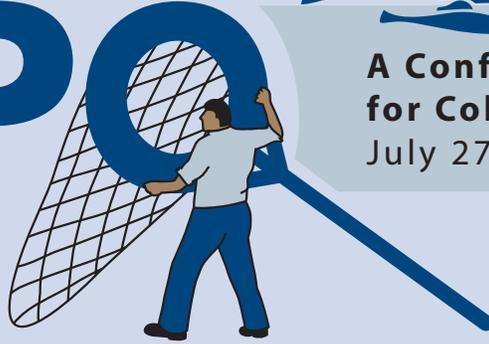
# The Dipnetter

Yakama • Warm Springs  
Umatilla • Nez Perce



COLUMBIA RIVER INDIAN FISHER'S

# EXPO



**A Conference and Trade Show  
for Columbia River Indian Fishers**  
July 27 • Hood River Inn

sponsored by the Columbia River  
Inter-Tribal Fish Commission



**Want to learn how to  
increase the value of your  
fish harvest and hear the  
latest 2012 fall fishery  
outlook?**

**Would you like to hear  
about fishing and treaty  
rights from tribal  
leadership and ask them  
questions?**

**Would you like to learn  
how to start taking credit  
cards at your over-the-  
bank fish sales?**

**How about learn the  
latest filleting and food  
safety techniques?**

You can do all of these and more at the third annual Columbia River Fisher's Expo—a conference and trade show designed with the specific needs of tribal fishers in mind. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is hosting the Expo for all Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce fishers on July 27 from 8:30am to 5pm at the Hood River Inn.

Visit [www.critfc.org/expo](http://www.critfc.org/expo) for a complete list of classes and vendors and the latest information.



## The Dipnetter

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
729 NE Oregon, Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97232  
[www.critfc.org](http://www.critfc.org) • (503) 238-0667

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