



Tribal Fish Processing Center Update

As many fishers know, over the past four years, CRITFC has been facilitating the development of a tribal fish processing plant near East White Salmon, Washington. The Corps of Engineers-built plant complies with federal food safety guidelines and, once operational, will open up new possibilities for marketing Columbia River Indian-caught salmon. The 80' x 100'-foot processing center houses a commercial blast freezer, refrigerator, holding freezer, and an ice machine capable of producing almost a ton of ice every two hours. The BIA has management authority over the site, but will transfer this authority to the tribes after they enter into a "638" Self-Determination Agreement with the BIA. In the mean time, the BIA has been providing ice from the facility's ice machine to fishers during tribal commercial fishing seasons.

This facility will be the first joint economic development project among the four tribes and a lot of hard work has gone into creating an intertribal company to run it. This company, called Tribal FishCo, LLC, is a limited liability company chartered to

provide a management structure to operate the fish processing center. The company's charter sets forth the roles and responsibilities of the four tribes including the appointment of two representatives by each tribe to the company's board to provide governance over operations. Tribal FishCo's Board of Advisors are: Larry Greene Jr. and Cecil Jose (Nez Perce), N. Kathryn Brigham



When fully operational, the East White Salmon Fish Processing Center will provide fishers with a facility to clean, freeze, store, and handle deliveries of their salmon harvest.

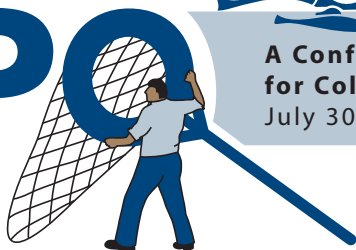
and Marcus Luke (Umatilla), Olney Patt Jr. and Ryan Smith (Warm Springs), and Roger Dick Jr. (Yakama). The second Yakama Board of Advisors' seat is currently unfilled.

Several issues remain to be addressed by the Board of Advisors before operations begin at the new facility. These include transferring management of the site from the BIA to Tribal FishCo, determining the scope of operations for the plant such as what and how much it will process, selecting an experienced seafood processor to operate the facility, and entering into an agreement with the City of Bingen to use its wastewater treatment facility. The LLC Board of Advisors will work through these issues and timelines to determine when operations can begin.

For the upcoming fall commercial fishery, CRITFC staff will work with the BIA to provide ice for fishers from the plant's ice machine.

COLUMBIA RIVER INDIAN FISHER'S

EXPO



A Conference and Trade Show
for Columbia River Indian Fishers
July 30-31 · Hood River Inn

See page 4 for details.

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Fish Processing Center

critfc executive director's message



Paul Lumley

I'm thrilled that after years of work by CRITFC, the tribes, and federal agencies, soon Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce fishers will benefit from the new East White Salmon fish processing center. CRITFC has played a major role in making this happen. We presented the facility as a solution to BIA concerns about tribal fish processing needs. The tribes formulated plans and provided design specifications to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which was tasked with building the processing center. Most recently, we have been guiding the creation of an intertribal company to run the plant and securing funding for start-up costs.

Many fishers have already been benefiting from all this work: for the past three years, the facility has provided ice for fishers during the tribal fishing seasons. Until the intertribal company starts operations, though, the majority of the facility's capabilities go unused. Fishers have asked me why CRITFC hasn't started up operations yet. The short answer is: because CRITFC can't—only the tribes can do that.

While CRITFC, which oversees the operations and maintenance of the in-lieu

and treaty fishing access sites and guided the development and construction of the processing center, our involvement stops short of actually running the processing center. Our by-laws and federal contracts prohibit us from operating for-profit enterprises. This limitation opened the door to an exciting new opportunity for the four member tribes: they are going into business together! This new company, Tribal FishCo, LLC, will be responsible for the processing center and its operations. The company's board of directors is made up of representatives from all four tribes, making this a truly intertribal endeavor. Once the business is officially established, the BIA will transfer management of the plant to the tribes and fishers will be enjoying the benefits and opportunities this remarkable new facility makes possible.

I look forward to attending the grand opening of this new facility—a facility that the four tribes, acting in unison through the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, have guided from just an idea to an exciting reality.

Wyeth Access Site Ground Breaking



Tribal, CRITFC, U.S. Corps of Engineers, BIA, and Oregon State Parks representatives turning the first spadeful of earth to mark the beginning of construction of the Wyeth Treaty Fishing Access Site.

Representatives from the tribes, CRITFC, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Oregon State Parks gathered on the banks of the Columbia River on May 27 to break ground on the Wyeth Treaty Fishing Access Site. Located between Hood River and Cascade Locks, the \$8 million treaty fishing access site is expected to be finished in late summer 2011.

Once completed, the new site will be the second-to-last treaty fishing access site built for tribal members to use along Zone 6 of the Columbia River. The Corps recently purchased a 50-acre property in Dallesport for development

into the thirty-first and final treaty fishing access site location. The system of in-lieu and treaty fishing access sites were developed by the federal government as mitigation for fishing access tribal fishers was lost when Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day dams were constructed.

Okanagan Sockeye Release

The Okanagan Nation Alliance, a coalition of seven Canadian First Nations from southern British Columbia, released 900,000 sockeye fry into the Okanagan River near

sovereign entities must work cooperatively to ensure the success of the fish and the people that depend on them,” Matylewich said to the crowd that had gathered to wish the sockeye well. “We wish the fish a good journey to the ocean and on their return trip home.”



The Okanagan Nation Alliance worked with eight local schools through the Salmon in the Classroom program to raise many of the sockeye smolts used in the release. Here the children who raised the smolts from eggs get to release some of them by hand.

Penticton, B.C. Representatives from the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Colville Tribe, Grant and Chelan County Public Utility Districts, CRITFC, and around 400 guests attended the release and ceremony on May 26. This was the sixth of twelve annual fry releases called for by the Okanagan Nation Alliance’s twelve-year plan to restore sockeye salmon to Skaha Lake.

Mike Matylewich, CRITFC Fisheries Management Department manager, complimented the Okanagan Nation Alliance on its impressive success in such a short time. “These fish know no borders. All

These returning adult sockeye will provide an opportunity for future tribal harvest in Zone 6. The Canadian First Nations also hope to discuss a mutually beneficial agreement on harvest and enhancement of Upper Columbia River sockeye with the Columbia River tribes.

Food Export Readiness Seminar

CRITC has coordinated through the Intertribal Agriculture Council’s American Indian Foods Program to hold an Export Readiness Training in Portland, on July 20-21, 2010. The seminar will help fishers understand the

process of exporting food products internationally and provide specific information needed to sell in the global market.

Some tuition and travel scholarships are available for fishers to attend the full training. If you would like to attend or need additional information please contact Les Brown at (503) 731-1292.

HAACP Training

The next CRITFC-sponsored Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points (HAACP) training will be hosted by the Umatilla Tribes. The July 16-17 workshop is open to all fishers. Attendees completing the two-day training will receive diplomas certifying that they are HAACP-trained. For more information or to enroll in the class, call Leila Spencer at (541) 429-7218 or Les Brown at (503) 731-1292.

Cold Water Survival Workshop

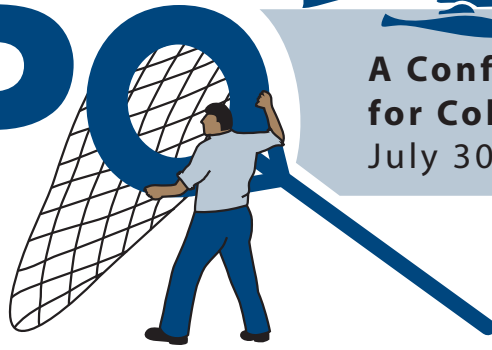


Tommy Alvarez, WARM SPRINGS, lights a flare during a hands-on demonstration at the Cold Water Survival Workshop hosted by CRITFC June 10. The workshop provided 25 attendees with techniques on how to survive in the cold waters of the Columbia River.

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www.critfc.org/expo

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Want to learn how to increase the value of your fish harvest and hear the latest 2010 fall fishery outlook?

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

Would you like to try out the latest life jackets and other boat safety and fishing gear?

How about learn cold-water survival techniques or the latest HAACP information?

You can do all of these and more at the first ever **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 30 and 31 from 9:30am to 5pm each day at the Hood River Inn.

Pre-register for the Expo to reserve your free lunch each day and to enter the raffle for a variety

of items including a pair of boating overalls with an integrated flotation system valued at \$350. Visit www.critfc.org/expo for online registration and a complete list of classes and vendors. You can also register by phone at (503) 238-0667.



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