



The Dipnetter

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

October 2009

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LePage Park Paving

The Corps of Engineers will be paving the LePage Park parking lot Oct. 19-23. Access to the in-lieu site will be maintained during paving. The Corps regrets any inconveniences to tribal members while paving occurs. Other Corps recreation sites will be paved beginning in 2010. Advance notice of the other projects will be provided in The Dipnetter as they are scheduled.



2009 Fall Fishery Overview

The tribal fall commercial gill net fishery closed for the year on October 1. There were six commercial gill net fishing seasons this fall, the first opening on August 24. Longer openings were scheduled this year compared to past years, with 23 days of fishing occurring during this six-week season. The scaffold fishery was also allowed to sell fish from August 1. Scaffold-caught fish sales closed on October 16, however the scaffold fishery remains for subsistence use.

Effort in this year's Zone 6 commercial gillnet fishery was high with over 700 nets set during the height of the season. Catches were good with over 88,000 adult Chinook, over 13,000 coho and over 34,000 steelhead caught during the fall season.

This year's Chinook return was somewhat less than forecast but still near average. The summer steelhead return reached near-record levels and the coho return is on-track to be a very good year. The fall Chinook



jack return continues the remarkable trend in high jack numbers seen in the spring and summer runs. As of September 29, a record 32,320 jacks passed Lower Granite Dam this fall.

The fall fishery stayed well within the harvest limits agreed to under the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement and tribal managers are considering requests for subsistence gill net fishery permits. Tribal fishery managers are continuing to evaluate run sizes and catches.

Percent difference from the 20-year average for fall Chinook jacks. At 113,659, the 2009 run so far is 214% over the 20-year average.



Styrofoam Float Phase-out

Now that your nets are out of the water for the season, it's a great time to switch out your styrofoam floats for more environmentally friendly options. Alternatives such as Styrofoam that has been sealed inside heavy vinyl, closed-cell foam floats, or other non-Styrofoam floats are available at prices starting at about \$8. Your commercial fishing supply dealer possibly keeps these in stock or can order them for you.



CRITFC
Executive Director
Paul Lumley



Pacific Salmon Commission

The Pacific Salmon Commission is an eight-member bilateral body that was created by the U.S. and Canadian governments to implement the Pacific Salmon Treaty. It includes representatives of federal, state, and tribal governments. The Commission consists of four members representing each country. Each country has one vote, and both votes are necessary for a Commission decision.

Executive Director's Message Pacific Salmon Treaty at 25 Years

Ocean fisheries can catch a lot of salmon that are destined to return to the Columbia River. So, what are the tribes and CRITFC doing about it? The answer is much more than you might think.

Since the early 1900s, the United States and Canada argued about the other country's catch of fish originating from their waters. Decades of negotiation culminated in the 1985 Pacific Salmon Interception Treaty, which established catch sharing principles and catch guidelines for ocean fisheries as far north as Southeast Alaska. The PST established the Pacific Salmon Commission as a forum for the two countries to track the effects of ocean fishing on terminal area returns and make appropriate adjustments.

From the Columbia River perspective, management of ocean fisheries in Southeast Alaska and Canada is important because those fisheries catch a significant number of Upper Columbia summer and fall Chinook. The implementation of the coded wire tag program in the late 1970s allowed biologists to quantify the impact of these fisheries on fish destined to return to the Columbia River. Biologists estimated that about 25% of the Chinook catch in both the Southeast Alaska (SEAK) and the West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI) fisheries were Upper Columbia summer and fall Chinook. The information also showed that the SEAK and WCVI fisheries had minimal impacts on Upper Columbia spring Chinook.

The 1985 PST established Chinook catch guidelines based on a quota system. The Chinook quota was 263,000 each for SEAK and Northern British Columbia and 360,000 for WCVI. The quota system proved to be problematic from a conservation perspective for a number of Chinook stocks in Canada and the southern United States. The PSC renegoti-

ated the fishing arrangement in 1999 and replaced the quota system with an abundance based approach. The catch guidelines were based on estimates of the Chinook stock contributing to a particular fishery. Ocean fisheries were allowed to take a greater percentage of the available fish as the estimated abundance increased.

The PSC completed another renegotiation of the Chinook guidelines in 2008. A number of Chinook stocks in Canada and the southern United States continued to be at depressed levels. The PSC negotiated a catch reduction of 15% in SEAK and 30% in WCVI in response to the stock status. Based on recent abundance levels, the reductions equate to about 50,000 less Chinook caught annually in each fishery. Based on previous contribution estimates, a substantial proportion of these will have originated from the Upper Columbia summer and fall Chinook runs. The 2008 agreement runs through 2017.

Tribal representatives play a key role in the PSC process. Four commissioners and four alternate commissioners represent each country. For the United States, one commissioner and one alternate commissioner are tribal representatives. Olney Patt, Jr., WARM SPRINGS, is the current tribal commissioner and the alternate is Ron Allen, JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM. The commissioners receive advice from a number of panels that cover specific geographic areas. Randy Settler, YAKAMA, is currently one of the tribal representatives on the Southern Panel. The tribal representatives in the PSC process are supported by policy advisors from each tribe and tribal and CRITFC technical staffs.

Now is the time of the year when the management of ocean fisheries kicks in to high gear. CRITFC and its four member tribes will be participating in these decision making processes to ensure that the ocean fishery does not catch more salmon than are allowed.



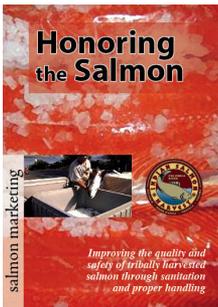
Chinook Salmon Range

Columbia Basin Chinook salmon have a migratory range in the Pacific Ocean that stretches from northern California all the way up to Alaska.

Salmon Marketing News

Salmon Marketing

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Honoring the Salmon DVDs

A fresh supply of Honoring the Salmon DVDs are now available. This DVD highlights the Tribal Fishers Handbook, which is included in the case. Fishers have shared with us that it is a great video to show friends and family some of things they do when harvesting the fish. Please call Les Brown to get a copy.

HAACP “Train the Trainers” Program

A new “Train the Trainers” program which brings HAACP and food safety training to the reservations will be starting this month. The Nez Perce will host the first class on **October 28-29** at the Clearwater Casino Event Center in Lewiston, Idaho. For information on this class, contact Nancy McCallister at (208) 843-2253. Classes on other reservations will be announced as they are scheduled. Please call Kris Sampson at (503) 238-0667 if you are interested in participating in an upcoming class.

Pacific Marine Expo

Fishers will find vendors selling totes, fishing gear, webbing, vacuum pack machines, and much more at this year’s Fishers Expo. The event takes place **Nov. 19-21** at Seattle’s Qwest Field. Admission is free if you pre-register or \$20.00 at the door. Register at (800) 454-3005. Contact Les Brown for more info.

NW Food Manufacturing & Packaging Expo

For those interested in product packaging and labeling, mark **January 17-20** on your calendar. The NW Food Manufacturing and Packaging Expo will be held then at the Portland Convention Center. Call Les Brown for more details.

Self-inflating Lifejacket Program

Prepare for the 2010 fishing season: upgrade to self-inflating lifejackets for you and your crew. Choose from several models in a special \$50 discount program only for Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce tribal fishers. Hurry, as this program will end when the grant money runs out. Contact The Dalles Marine Supply at (541) 296-4111 for eligibility requirements and for more information.



◀ Children at Salmon Walk interacting with live lamprey ammocoetes.

CTUIR Salmon Walk

Each September, the Umatilla Tribes' Department of Natural Resources hosts Salmon Walk. Visitors learn about salmon and tribal salmon culture and participate in walking, running, or bicycle races along the Umatilla River.

An interpretive walk along the Umatilla River allows visitors to see salmon spawn, listen to presentations by tribal biologists, and learn about the history of the river and tribe, salmon recovery, and points of interest along the way.

Agencies and landowners from the Umatilla River Basin host booths at the event to help guests get to know their watershed. Drawings for completing a "get to know your watershed" quiz offer prizes of Pendleton blankets and other donated items. Proceeds from Salmon Walk support the Umatilla Tribes' natural resources education projects.

With approximately 400 event guests and 150 racers, Salmon Walk is one of the larger salmon-related events in the region.

FISH SALES RECEIPT

Columbia River Indian Salmon Harvest
 Yakama - Waiilatup - Umatilla - Nez Perce
 888-388-1825 - www.crii.org/harvest

BUYER'S NAME
 Name: _____ Tribal ID: _____
 Phone: _____ Tribe: _____

SELLER'S NAME
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____ Email address: _____

FISH PACKAGED

	# of fish	total lbs	price/lb	total
Chinook				
Steelhead				
Coho				
Sockeye				
Other				
Other				

Price: BROWN DALLAS BAY Total: _____
 Date: / / **Thank you**

New Tribal Fisher Receipt Books

The new Columbia River Indian Salmon Harvest receipt books allow fishers to quickly and easily provide receipts to their buyers and promote future sales with a convenient fish sales availability calendar on the back of each receipt. If you haven't received your receipt and sanitation log booklets, contact Les Brown to get one.



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