

The Dipnetter

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



April 2011



The Yakama Nation hosted the March CRITFC commission meeting. As part of this meeting, representatives from all four member tribes and CRITFC staff toured several Yakama Fisheries projects. Above, at Barker Ranch on the lower Yakima River, Yakama Nation biologist Chris Fredriksen [far right] describes the fall chinook acclimation site the Yakama Nation hopes to build there.



Officer Jerrod Daniel

OPERATION STAY AFLOAT

BY CRITFC ENFORCEMENT OFFICER JERROD DANIEL

CRITFC Enforcement and other enforcement agencies continue to respond to a troubling number of tribal members drowning on the Columbia River. Having safety equipment aboard and all occupants wear life vests minimizes the chance of drowning.

CRITFC Enforcement recently launched Operation Stay Afloat, a five-year boat safety plan, created by CRITFC Officer Jerrod Daniel. It was specifically designed for Columbia River Indian fishers. The program educates fishers on safe boating habits and will help reduce boating accidents.

As part of the program, CRITFC Enforcement will offer boat safety inspections for all tribal members' boats. CRITFC Enforcement officers will base inspections

only on the regulations to which that tribal member is subject. Umatilla tribal members are required to have proof of a safety inspection, conducted by either CTUIR or CRITFC Enforcement officers, before July 1. The inspection is voluntary for members of the other three tribes.

Officer Daniel will discuss boat safety and offer boat inspections at upcoming Salmon Marketing events and give boat safety presentations at the 2011 Indian Fishers Expo in Hood River in July. A safety raffle with a variety of major prizes has begun. Find out how to enter at Salmon Marketing classes and workshops or call the CRITFC Enforcement office at (541) 386-6363. Winners will be drawn at the conclusion of the Expo.

Spring Season Fisheries Downstream of Bonneville

BY STUART ELLIS, CRITFC HARVEST SPECIALIST

The tribes want to provide opportunities to fish downstream of Bonneville Dam while still meeting other tribal priorities and needs. To do this, the tribes have agreed to several limits to fishing downstream of the dam. The fishery will be open Wednesdays to Fridays each week beginning April 6. Each fisher will be allowed to fish with a single pole from the bank only; fishing from platforms or constructing new platforms is prohibited. Only salmon and steelhead can be retained. On Saturdays, the tribes are trying a new opportunity by authorizing a special day of fishing just for elders and the disabled. Participants in the Saturday fishery may be given assistance in carrying gear and fish, but must do the actual fishing themselves.

At this time, none of the tribes have authorized commercial sales of spring chinook or steelhead. For a complete list of fishery regulations, fishers should check with their tribe. The tribes are optimistic that these rules will help manage the fishery downstream of the dam better and help ensure the catch downstream of the dam fits with expected catches in Zone 6. As with any of our mainstem fisheries, the tribes may need to modify fishery regulations based on the actual spring chinook returns and how well each part of the tribal fishery performs. CRITFC fishery managers will begin to update the actual spring chinook run size in early May. Fishers should watch for news of any needed changes to fishery regulations beginning in May.

Radiation from Japan not a Threat to Human Health in U.S.

BY DIANE BARTON, CRITFC WATER QUALITY SPECIALIST

Monitoring stations have detected radioactive particles released from Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant. Currently the amount released from Fukushima is being dispersed by gravity, wind, and ocean currents. Any radioactive particles that do reach the Pacific Northwest will be too diluted to pose a health threat to the Columbia River Basin even if a much larger blast occurs.

Radioactive water has been discharged into the ocean from the plant and unacceptably high levels of radiation has been found in fish caught north of Tokyo. Columbia River fish are not known to feed in these waters.

For more information, contact CRITFC's Water Quality Coordinator Diane Barton at (503) 238-0667.

Timing of Salmon Sales

BY STUART ELLIS, CRITFC HARVEST SPECIALIST

The tribes determine when and how to allow tribal ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial fishing. They have decided that spring chinook cannot be sold while the tribal ceremonial permit fishery is underway. They want to ensure that the longhouses and churches that count on salmon for their First Salmon feasts have enough for this sacred purpose. Once this allocation has been caught, and if the run size and catches allow, the tribes may decide to allow tribal fishers to sell fish later in the spring. The tribes work to balance various cultural, social, and economic needs.

CRITFC Officers and Commissioners

WARM SPRINGS



Bruce Jim, CRITFC chairman
Leslie Bill · Ryan Smith · Raphael Queapama · Emerson Squiemphen
Donnie Winishut, Sr
(541) 553-3257

YAKAMA



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

UMATILLA



Kathryn Brigham, CRITFC secretary
James Marsh · Mitch Pond · Vince Sohappay · Chris Williams
(541) 276-3165

NEZ PERCE



Joel Moffett, CRITFC treasurer
Brooklyn Baptiste · Julia Davis-Wheeler · Tonia Garcia · Larry Greene
Joanna Marek · Allen Slickpool, Jr
Robertta Bisbee · Marie Arthur Elmer Crow · Erik Holt · Herb Jackson · Wilfred Scott
(208) 843-2253

Fishing below Bonneville Dam: Balancing Priorities

critfc executive director's message

In the past few years, the Yakama, Warm Springs, and Umatilla tribes have authorized tribal fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam. The fisheries have proven to be both popular among many tribal fishers and productive, especially for spring chinook. The spring chinook catch downstream of Bonneville has grown to become a significant portion of the total mainstem catch. Challenges in managing this part of the fishery have grown as well. The tribal spring chinook catch downstream of Bonneville Dam is counted as part of the overall mainstem tribal harvest. The tribes are faced with challenging decisions to balance three priorities in their fisheries management. The highest priority is to meet the needs of the ceremonial permit fisheries. The next priority is ensuring that the Zone 6 platform and hook-

and-line fishery can remain open for subsistence use throughout the spring season. The last priority is to allow commercial harvest either through sales of platform and hook-and-line fish or through commercial gillnet fisheries when run sizes are large enough. This year, the tribes have made difficult decisions in order to fit the fishery downstream of Bonneville into these priorities. Hopefully these rules will allow all the tribes' priorities to be met while still allowing tribal members to exercise their treaty rights to fish downstream of Bonneville Dam.

As a reminder, CRITFC doesn't set fishing regulations. Please contact your tribe if you have questions about your tribe's fishing regulations.



Paul Lumley
YAKAMA

Building on Past Successes

improving the services CRITFC provides to fishers

BY LES BROWN, SALMON MARKETING

In partnership with CRITFC Enforcement, Salmon Marketing has begun working on a fisher safety campaign. (See front page.) CRITFC has held several personal safety classes in collaboration with Washington Sea Grant, attracting nearly 100 fishers. More are being scheduled to meet the demand.

Recently 23 fishers participated in CRITFC-sponsored HACCP training; there are now more than 300 HACCP-trained fishers. We are also offering a food handlers card for those who sell fish over the bank in Oregon. We would like to thank Nancy Collins, Warm Springs Tribal Sanitarian, for helping us with this program.

In March, Salmon Marketing hosted a cold-water survival class (33 attended), HACCP and food safety class (23 attended), and a first responders' first aid class. Salmon Marketing also participated in ATNI's new regional salmon marketing initiatives and was noted in the group as leader in food safety and marketing efforts. CRITFC staff along with

fishers recently assisted in taping an episode of television food program "Hook Line and Dinner" featuring Columbia River sturgeon. On April 28, a boat engine repair and fiberglass workshop will be held at the Celilo In-lieu Site. (See back page for details.)

As the fishing season approaches, be sure to contact Salmon Marketing about these topics or any way we can be of help or service.



Eric Olsen, Sea Grant water safety instructor, conducting a cold water survival class in The Dalles.

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Yakama • Warm Springs
Umatilla • Nez Perce



Salmon Marketing Classes & Events

FIBERGLASS & ENGINE REPAIR

April 28, 9am-4pm

Celilo In-lieu Site boat ramp area

Top experts in engine and fiberglass repair will be on hand to give fishers ideas and suggestions to keep their boats afloat and running. This is an open house format with mini-demonstrations and question and answer sessions throughout the day. Fishers may also bring their boats or motors for instructors to view and offer suggestions on repair or maintenance. A fiberglass company will be in attendance to sell the materials needed to make repairs. For scheduling purposes, your pre-registration would be helpful. To register, call (541) 393-1632.

2011 COLUMBIA RIVER INDIAN FISHERS EXPO

July 22-23

Hood River

Building on the success of last year's event, the 2011 Fishers Expo will bring a host of new presentations, materials, and vendors all geared to the unique needs of Indian fishers on the Columbia River.

For additional information on these or other marketing topics, you can reach CRITFC's salmon marketing coordinator Les Brown anytime at: (541) 392-1632 or (503) 799-8640.



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Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
729 NE Oregon, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97232
www.critfc.org

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COLUMBIA RIVER INDIAN FISHER'S



Mark your calendars!
The 2011 Columbia
River Indian
Fishers Expo is
taking place in Hood
River on July 22-23.

