

The Dipnetter

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



May 2011



Chief Davis Washines

COLUMBIA RIVER FISHING SITE DISPUTES

BY CRITFC ENFORCEMENT CHIEF-OF-POLICE DAVIS WASHINES

Just as sure as the rains fall every year in the Columbia Gorge, the Hood River-based CRITFC Enforcement officers and staff can expect a deluge of fishing site disputes throughout the Zone 6 area. These disputes occur between members of the same tribe as well as members of different tribes fishing the same area. CRITFC Enforcement are the first responders to these disputes and spend considerable time, energy, and resources dealing with these disputes. They take up time that could be spent on more productive activities such as enforcing the four tribes' fishing laws and regulations, conducting patrols to protect salmon and other fish resources, and increasing river safety through the boating safety program.

CRITFC officers face a number of challenges when they are asked to handle a site dispute. Accurate and up-to-date site registration information is not readily available and inconsistencies among the tribes in fishing site registrations often places the officer in a no-win situation. The question of who has a legal right to fish a particular site can also be confusing. For example, someone may claim that a site has been abandoned when the fisher is following the custom of not fishing until after the memorial ceremony of a deceased family member has taken place. These are all issues that CRITFC officers must consider when addressing the many site disputes that occur along the Columbia River.

One of the primary responsibilities of CRITFC Enforcement is to promote the safety of fishers and protect fishers' property. This can be difficult as emotions often run high when each disputant feels legally entitled to

fish at a particular site.

Under the direction of tribal leadership, CRITFC's Enforcement and the Law Enforcement Committee began developing a site dispute resolution process to address this problem. By working together we can ensure that our enforcement officers' and dispatchers' time is focused on protecting tribal treaty rights and the fisheries. It will take all of us to develop a solution. We need tribal fishers to be involved in the development and implementation of fair and equitable site registration regulations. Mutual respect and respect for whatever actions is adopted by the four tribes through their respective governmental actions is also important. Please watch for meeting announcements, requests for comments, and other opportunities for input. Fisher involvement is essential to address this important issue.

In the old days, all those who fished at places such as Celilo Falls understood and respected another person's fishing site. We all need to follow their example and work together for the benefit of a safe and orderly fishery for now and for future generations of fishers. I know we cannot do anything about the amount of rain that Creator sends down to us, but we do have the ability to reduce the number of site disputes. Nye.

Mussels on the Move

BY BLAINE PARKER, CRITFC BIOLOGIST



It is springtime and invasive zebra and quagga mussels are on the move. No, they cannot walk, but they do hitch rides on boats and other watercraft that have been in mussel-infested waters.

During March and

April, there have been numerous reports of contaminated watercraft at various check stations in the western United States. In particular, check stations on the borders of Idaho and California have stopped and even impounded boats contaminated with invasive mussels, sometimes multiple boats in a single day. Some boats had been cleaned, but not thoroughly enough and others had not been cleaned at all.

It is more important than ever for everyone down on the river to be watching for boats that have these mussels on them. If you see a boat pulling into an in-lieu site or any other river access and it appears to have mussels on them, please call CRITFC Enforcement (800-487-3474) immediately and report it, you may be the only person saving the Columbia River and its resources from permanent harm from the invasive mussels.

A quagga mussel. Below is one shown actual size.



Pacific Salmon Commission 2011 Update

BY MIKE MATYLEWICH, CRITFC FISHBRIES MGMT

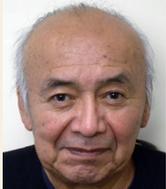
The Pacific Salmon Commission is charged with implementing the salmon interception treaty between the United States and Canada. The commission is made up of both American and Canadian representatives. The PSC meets every January and February to review the most recent catch and escapement data and to review allowable catch levels for the coming year. Olney Patt, Jr. (Warm Springs) chaired the US Section of the PSC during 2011.

The PSC completed renegotiations of fishing regimes in 2008. The new agreements last until 2018. The new agreement has a harvest schedule based on estimated abundance and reduces catches in Southeast Alaska by 15% and off the West Coast Vancouver Island by 30% relative to the previous agreement, which increases returns of summer and fall chinook to the Columbia River. The new agreement also contains provisions to improve chinook management in ocean fisheries. Implementation of total mortality management, which explicitly accounts for incidental mortalities, is currently being discussed.

The bilateral Chinook Technical Committee, co-chaired by Rishi Sharma of CRITFC, estimates an increase in ocean chinook abundance for fisheries in Southeast Alaska and British Columbia. The increased abundance estimates generate higher allowable chinook catches relative to last year, but still less than allowed under the previous agreement.

CRITFC Officers and Commissioners

WARM SPRINGS



Bruce Jim, CRITFC chairman
Leslie Bill · Ryan Smith · Raphael Queapama · Emerson Squiemphen
Donnie Winishut, Sr
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YAKAMA



Gerald Lewis, CRITFC vice-chairman
Richard George · Johnny Jackson · Sam Jim, Sr · Virgil Lewis, Sr
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UMATILLA



Kathryn Brigham, CRITFC secretary
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NEZ PERCE



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

A Frustrating and Slow Starting Spring Fishing Season

critfc executive director's message

The spring chinook run has been very late getting started this year. Likely due to a number of unfavorable river and environmental conditions, the lateness of the run makes predicting the run size very difficult. We are all anxiously waiting to see what will happen. The counts over the past few days have made people more optimistic, there is a risk that the spring chinook run could be much smaller than originally forecast. At this point, the only thing we do know is that we have a lot of uncertainty.

CRITFC and the four tribes will be closely monitoring the counts over the next few weeks so we can get a clearer picture of what this run will entail. Tribal policy representatives are watching the fish counts very carefully and

will make any fishery decisions as soon as the information is available. The tribes are still conducting ceremonial permit fishing and will complete it as soon as possible. The tribes have not made any decisions to allow commercial sales of spring chinook. If the run is large enough to support the opening of commercial sales, the tribe will take the appropriate actions at the appropriate time. We do not know when, or if, this will happen.

The tribes appreciate the fishers patience. Please continue to be patient during what has been a frustrating fishing season for everybody.



Paul Lumley
YAKAMA

Future of Our Salmon Conference

The Columbia Basin tribes believe that the region needs a common vision based on practical management, habitat protection and restoration, and innovative supplementation programs aimed at restoring naturally spawning populations.

The Future of Our Salmon conference is for Indian, sport, and commercial fishers; federal, tribal, state, and city representatives; environmental organizations; and the public to create a shared strategy for salmon recovery.

CRITFC is hosting this conference to not only help the region in forming a vision of how to restore salmon, but to also share the tribal vision—a vision that has been successful in restoring salmon stocks throughout the Columbia River basin.

Fishers from all four tribes are encouraged to take part in this important conference this June 1-2. It will be held at the Oregon Convention Center. For more information on the two-day conference or to register, visit www.critfc.org/future or call (503) 238-0667. Pre-registration is \$30 or \$50 after May 18. A limited number of registration scholarships are available for fishers, so register soon.

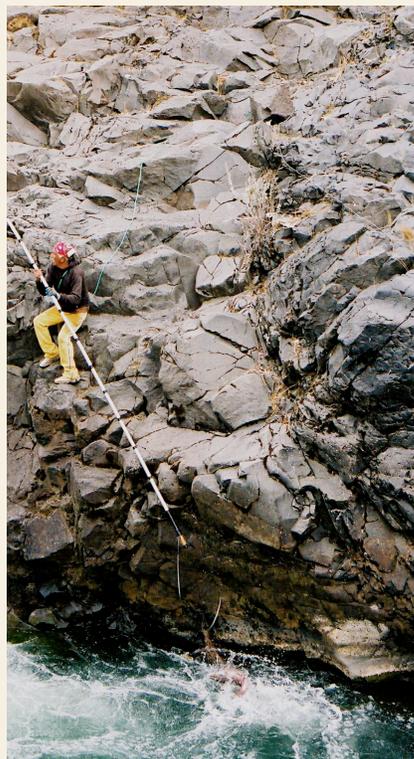
Tribal FishCo Manager Sought

Tribal FishCo, LLC, is a Limited Liability Company formed by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Nez Perce Tribe. The primary purpose of the LLC is to operate and maintain the East White Salmon Fish Processing Facility, located in White Salmon, WA. The LLC is seeking a Manager to run the company in its start up and continuing operations. The Manager will be the CEO of the company and responsible for carrying out the company's daily operations and business. The Manger must be experienced in fish processing and marketing. For an application packet, please contact CRITFC's Human Resources at 503-731-1316. Closing date is 5/16/11. Indian Preference will apply.



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Yakama • Warm Springs
Umatilla • Nez Perce



2011 Columbia River Indian Fishers Expo

SALMON MARKETING CLASSES & EVENTS

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.

COLUMBIA RIVER INDIAN FISHER'S



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

