

The Dipnetter

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



November 2012

TRIBAL FISHCO AND THE WHITE SALMON FISH PROCESSING CENTER

JON MATTHEWS, CRITFC FINANCE DIRECTOR

CRITFC's four member tribes founded Tribal FishCo, LLC in 2010 to operate and maintain the fish processing center located in White Salmon, Washington. The Corps of Engineers built the facility as a treaty fishing access site. With a federally compliant food processing facility, the tribes can take greater control of their natural resources by processing and marketing fish and accessing new markets. The tribes also want to ensure the business is self-sustaining and capable of meeting its cash flow needs and the needs of the markets.

Each of the tribes appointed two representatives to the Board of Advisors, which provides policy oversight to Tribal FishCo:

- Virgil Lewis, President, YAKAMA
- Ryan Smith, Vice-President, WARM SPRINGS
- N. Kathryn Brigham, Secretary, UMATILLA
- Roger Dick Jr. Member, YAKAMA
- Cecil Jose, Member, NEZ PERCE
- Marcus Luke Jr., Member, UMATILLA
- Olney Patt Jr., Member, WARM SPRINGS
- Allen Slickpoo Jr, Member, NEZ PERCE

FishCo hired Harris Teo (YAKAMA) as the Plant Manager to coordinate pilot tests in 2011 and 2012. FishCo contracted with experienced seafood processors for both years to assist

with cash flow and equipment needs. For this fall's operations, FishCo hired 15 employees to process fish and one to provide bookkeeping functions. Ice was also provided by FishCo through a contract with CRITFC for the last two years. About one million pounds of ice was provided to the fishers, which also provided revenue to FishCo. CRITFC provided staff support and secured funding to complete a business plan and an engineering report, which will be used in the negotiation process for the user agreement with the City of Bingen to authorize discharges into their wastewater treatment system.

A limited fish processing operation was conducted in the fall 2012 to work through logistics of operating the processing plant. Information was also gathered for the Bingen wastewater agreement.

There are a number of activities for 2013 operations including finalizing the wastewater treatment system user agreement

with the City of Bingen; reviewing capitalization needs for FishCo's 2013 operations (e.g., cash, labor, equipment), and how to fund them; and securing support from each tribes' respective tribal economic development personnel to help with business planning and the capitalization of the business. With proper planning, there is an opportunity for the four tribes to exert their sovereignty on their natural resources and at the same time increase the economic value of the treaty fisheries. 🐟



The processing line during this fall's test operation of the White Salmon Fish Processing facility.

Fishing Site Clean-up Closures

MICHAEL BRONCHEAU, CRITFC FISHING SITE MAINT. MANAGER

Last winter, six treaty fishing access sites were closed for extensive clean-up and repairs. The 2012-2013 clean-up will begin this month.



Roosevelt Treaty Fishing Access Site

During each closure, the maintenance crew will remove trash, abandoned property, and temporary structures; repair facilities, plumbing, and electrical systems; maintain the landscaping; and other repairs as necessary. **Any personal and titled property left on a site during its designated clean-up period will be disposed of.**

The closure schedule:

- **Three-mile Canyon (Nov 5-9, 2012)**
- **Rufus (Nov 12-16, 2012)**
- **Roosevelt (Nov 19-30, 2012)**
- **Maryhill (Dec 3-21, 2012)**
- **White Salmon (Jan 7-18, 2013)**
- **Lyle (Jan 21-Feb 1, 2013)**

If you use any of these sites, please remove your personal and titled property to help speed the work and prevent any unexpected losses.

While a site is closed for the maintenance, all other access sites, including the five in-lieu sites, will remain open for use and will be maintained on a normal weekly schedule. 🐟

Fall Season Update

STUART ELLIS, CRITFC FISH MGMT. BIOLOGIST

There were seven weekly commercial gillnet fishing periods with 22.5 days of gillnet fishing. This compares with a recent five-year average of 27.2 days of gillnet fishing. Tribal fishers caught about 85,600 adult fall chinook, almost 15,000 steelhead, and 6,800 coho. The fall chinook run sizes were near recent year averages, but the catch rates for chinook were much lower than normal. There was good effort with the peak net count reaching 749 nets which is just under the record for the last 12 years. The tribes had some B steelhead concerns, but given the harvest effort this year, it wouldn't have been possible to catch all of the allowed upriver Bright chinook even without the steelhead limits. It is unknown why catch rates were off this year. Water conditions weren't far from normal. There was often an east wind, especially in the Gorge, which may have impacted catch rates. Prices were good for much of the fall season and there were good numbers of buyers available to purchase fish. People have still been contacting CRITFC asking for information on buying fish direct from fishers, which is a little unusual for mid-October.

Based on jack counts and returns to the Snake Basin, it looks like fall chinook should be doing well next year. Spring and summer forecasts will come out in December. The fall chinook forecast won't be done until early February. 🐟

CRITFC Officers and Commissioners

UMATILLA



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

NEZ PERCE



Joel Moffett, CRITFC vice-chairman
Brooklyn Baptiste · Roberta Bisbee
Dan Kane · McCoy Oatman
Allen Slickpoo Jr · Silas Whitman
Gary Dorr · Quintin Ellenwood
Erik Holt · Herb Jackson
Timothy Wheeler
(208) 843-2253

WARM SPRINGS



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

YAKAMA



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

Fundamentals of Canning Class

LES BROWN, SALMON MARKETING COORDINATOR

Mark Whitham, Oregon Sea Grant Product Development Extension Specialist will teach a hands-on class on the fundamentals of canning on **November 7 from 10am to 4pm**. This class will give the fundamental concepts required to safely can products at home and provide additional information for those wanting to have their fish commercially canned.

The free class will be at the Cascade Locks Community Center located in the Port of Cascade Locks complex next to the boat ramp.

You need to register in advance. There is limited spaces so register early by texting or calling Les Brown at (503) 799-8640. 🐟

Pacific Marine Fishers Expo

LES BROWN, SALMON MARKETING COORDINATOR

This is the fifth year tribal fishers have had the opportunity to attend the annual Pacific Marine Fishers Expo. This year, the event will be in Seattle's Qwest Field Exhibit Center (where the Seahawks play). It runs **November 27-29** (Tue-Thurs). The event is free if you pre-register or \$50 at the door. Call (800) 454-3005 to pre-register.



Last year's Pacific Marine Fishers Expo

There are many exhibits that apply to larger boats, but also many booths that apply to our tribal fishery. You'll find equipment, gear, services, suppliers, new products and ideas—and with hundreds of suppliers you can negotiate face-to-face or bring catalogs home to share with others. Pacific Marine Expo is the largest commercial fishing show in the Northwest.

For more information or pre-registration help, contact Les Brown at (503) 799-8640. 🐟

Get fisheries announcements right on your cell phone

If you would like to get fisheries announcements via 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.



The Dalles Abandoned Property

KELLY THOMAS, US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS-THE DALLES

The US Army Corps of Engineers has identified and tagged the property below for potential disposal. If these items are not removed, they will eventually be disposed of by the Corps of Engineers as abandoned property. If you are the owner of any of the properties or know who is, please call The Dalles Lock and Dam Natural Resource Office at (541) 506.7816

- White "Starcraft" pop-up trailer at Seufert Park. Plates: Washington 3794 TW
- Brown "Larson" boat with EZ Loader trailer at The Dalles Dam north shore ramp. Vessel #WN 4886 NK; trailer plates: Washington 4929 UD
- "Float On" boat trailer at The Dalles Dam peninsula parking area. No plates.



Scene from Celilo Falls. 1952. From the Matheny photo collection.





In Remembrance: John Johnson



John Johnson • 1952-2012

It was with heavy hearts that we received word that John Johnson, former Chief of CRITFC Enforcement, had passed away on October 12. John had served CRITFC for 26 years and was passionate about the organization's mission and the role the Enforcement Department played in protecting tribal sovereignty.

John started working for the Commission in 1984, two years after CRITFC Enforcement was founded. He advanced through the department, beginning as a patrol officer and eventually leading the department in 1986. John stayed in that position until his retirement as the Chief of Enforcement in 2010.

John's years of service and dedication did not go unnoticed by the tribes and tribal members. He was honored to be given the name *Plush Xaalish* (White Wolf) by a Yakama elder.

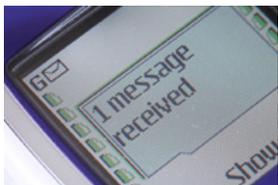
His contributions to our work are immeasurable and he will be missed greatly.



The Dipnetter

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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT #11



Text "critfc"
to the number
55958 to start
getting fishery
announcements
on your cell phone.

