

The Dipnetter

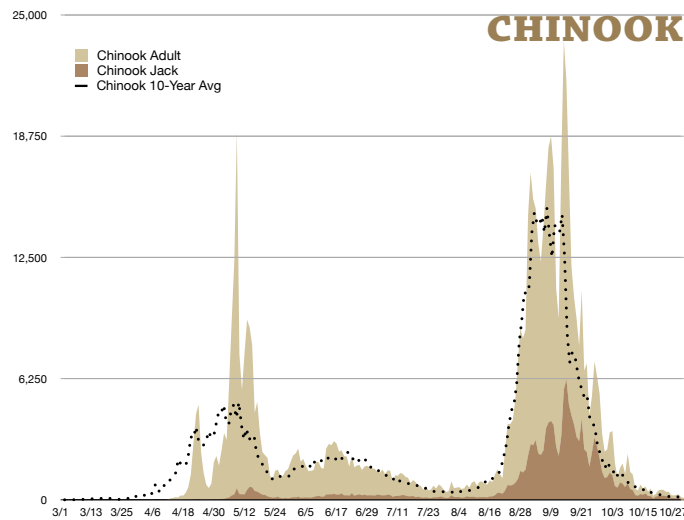
News of the River from the
Columbia River Inter-Tribal
Fish Commission



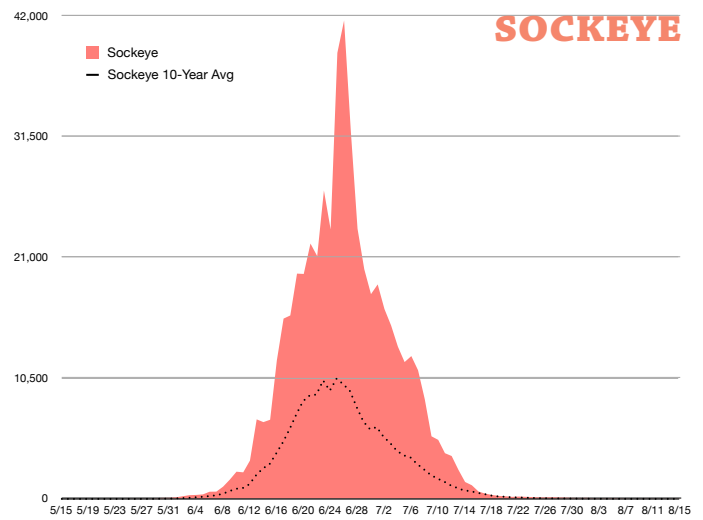
February 2013

THE 2012 SALMON RUN: YEAR IN REVIEW

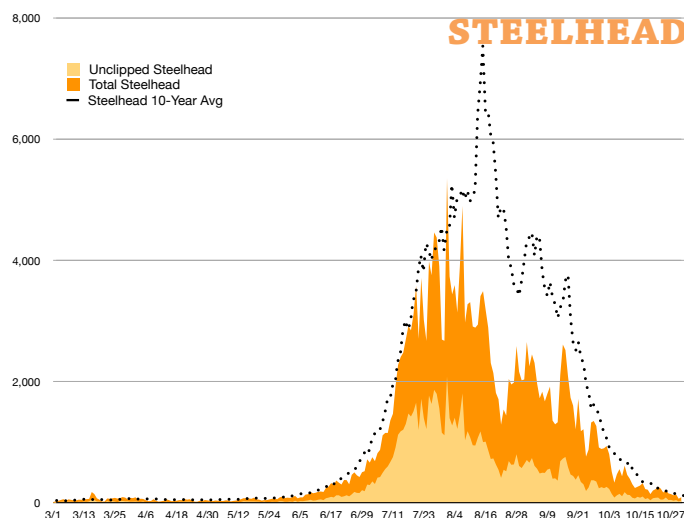
STUART ELLIS, CRITFC FISH MGMT. BIOLOGIST



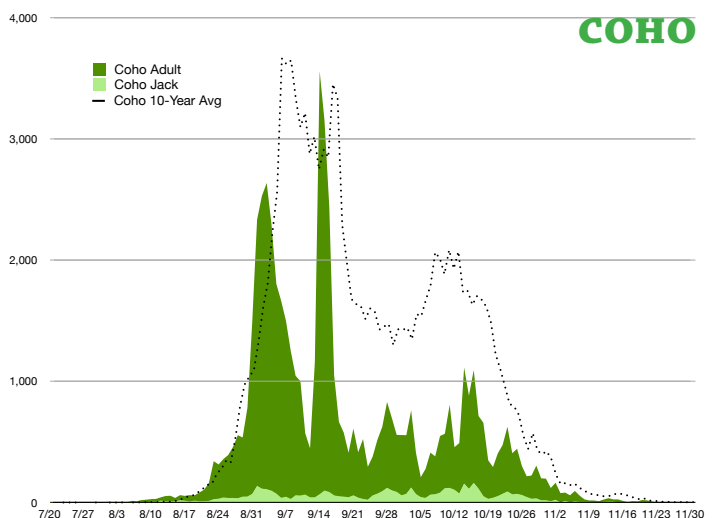
The 2012 spring chinook return was both late timed and just below the average size since 2000. The summer chinook and fall chinook returns were close to average sized and were average timed. Spring and summer jack chinook returns were below average. Fall chinook jack returns were near average.



Sockeye enjoyed the largest total return since at least the construction of Bonneville Dam. The majority of fish were headed for the Okanagan.



Summer steelhead returns were quite a bit below average for both total fish and unclipped fish. Their run timing was close to normal.



The coho return was well below average but had close to normal timing. The jack coho return was below average

River Housing Review

As part of the Corps of Engineers' tribal river housing review, it will conduct a series of interviews with tribal government representatives and elders who possess oral history of housing that existed along the Columbia River from present-day Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam and the relocations that were made as a result of the construction of Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day dams.

To reserve an interview slot, contact:

Tabitha Whitefoot
(503) 253-5429
tabithaw@coopercm.com

These interviews will be scheduled in one-hour slots. Family or group interviews are preferred. Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Identify known village and gathering sites
- List improvements to all sites
- Identify communal buildings and infrastructure that was lost
- Identify family names and relations
- List traditional tribes and bands
- Suggest others who need to interview
- Make suggestions on solutions

Interview Schedule

- **Warm Springs:** Warm Springs Agency
February 4, 8am-noon & 1-5pm
- **Hood River:** Hood River Inn
February 5, 9am-6pm
- **Toppenish:** Yakama Agency
February 7, 9am-noon & 1-5pm
- **Goldendale:** Goldendale Public Library
February 8, 8:30am-3pm

- **Mission:** Umatilla Agency
February 12, 10am-1pm & 2-5pm
- **Nez Perce location**
Dependent on response

ELDERS: The following locations have been selected to help elders for whom long-distance travel is difficult. Homebound elders living near these locations may also arrange for an in-home interview.

- **Cloudville,** February 13
- **Rock Creek Longhouse,** February 14
- **Lyle Longhouse,** February 15

To learn more about this project, visit the Fisher Services section of the CRITFC website. 🐟

Fisher Education Classes

LES BROWN, CRITFC SALMON MARKETING SPECIALIST

Coldwater Survival and Safety Training; Feb. 28 from 8am to 4pm at The Dalles Fitness & Court Club, 731 Pomona West, The Dalles. Bring a swimsuit if you plan to participate in the optional pool training. Limited space; please register early.

HACCP Food Safety Training; (2-day class) Mar 8-9, 8am-4pm Fri and 9am-2pm Sat. in the Hood River Enforcement Office.

To register for these classes, contact Les Brown at (503) 799-8640. More details for these classes are on the Fisher Services section of the CRITFC website. www.critfc.org.

CRITFC Officers and Commissioners

UMATILLA



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

NEZ PERCE



Joel Moffett, CRITFC vice-chairman
Brooklyn Baptiste · Roberta Bisbee
Dan Kane · McCoy Oatman
Allen Slickpool 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

Cold Water Survival

LES BROWN, CRITFC SALMON MARKETING SPECIALIST

The Columbia River is known for its winds, heavy waves and currents. Cold water temperatures can also make it dangerous. From February through April, the water temperature on the river is around 50°F. From May until the latter part of August, temperatures usually range between mid 50°F to 68°F. (Data from Fish Passage Center.)

Your odds of surviving a fall into the river are much better with a life jacket. Here is how to improve your chances of survival:

- The very first thing to remember is just survive the first minute. Don't panic. Get your breathing under control.
- Keep your head above water. The gasp reflex is automatic, and if your head is underwater, you could take in enough water to drown.
- Control your breathing. Gasping and hyperventilation is a natural reaction to the cold. If you can't control your breathing, not only could you have difficulty swimming, you could breathe water in and drown. Concentrate on breathing slowly and evenly.
- After getting your breathing under control that first minute, there are 10 minutes of meaningful movement in your arms and legs to complete escape or survival activities. Use that time to re-board your boat and summon help via an emergency distress call or signal. As the body cools, muscles and nerves will not work well. Even if you are a good swimmer, swimming failure looms. Without some kind of flotation aid, a person will drown.
- Depending on water temperature and other factors, it will be at least one hour before you risk losing consciousness due to hypothermia. A life jacket will keep your airway above water if you are unconscious, and even an unconscious person may still be successfully rescued and revived.

—from "Beyond Cold Water Bootcamp"

Distances on the water are very deceptive. Generally individuals should not consider swimming unless they are very close to shore or a

floating object, or they have little chance of rescue. Columbia River fishers have been successfully rescued after waiting six hours with their floating boat. Try to get into the boat or as far out of the water as possible. Boats with their flotation removed or without places to cling to in rough water may not offer this option. Fishers wearing a life jacket can be more liberal in deciding to swim because flotation allows them to gradually make their way to safety and they can still float if they become incapacitated by the cold.

—*"Hypothermia, Frostbite, and Other Cold Injuries"*
Giesbrecht and Wilkerson, 2006

Safety Positions

Swimming may not be the best option. The rushing of the cold water across high heat loss areas (head, neck, arm pits, body sides and groin) causes a victim to lose heat much more rapidly. The best solution is to get as much of the body out of the water or to assume a fetal position or HELP (Heat Escape Lessening Position) to reduce heat loss. For a group, use the Huddle position.



The HELP position

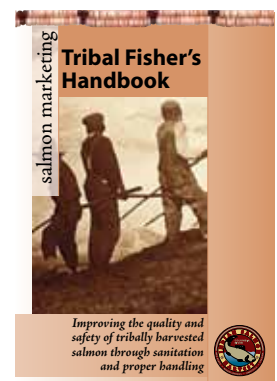


The Huddle position

illustrations from Maritime New Zealand

Clothing is invaluable; if you wind up in the river, it will help insulate you, and nearly all of it is neutrally buoyant. An average-size person wearing light clothing and a life jacket may survive three to six hours in 50°F water by remaining still. 🐟

This article is an excerpt from the CRITFC publication "Tribal Fisher's Handbook." This booklet offers fishers a wealth of information on food sanitation, safety, marketing, and other topics to help improve the quality and safety of tribally harvested salmon. To request a copy, contact Les Brown at (503) 799-8640.



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Yakama • Warm Springs
Umatilla • Nez Perce



Salmon Runs in Perspective

Last year, biologists predicted major returns of some salmon stocks, a forecast partly based on the very high returns of jacks the previous year. When the run forecasts were presented to the commissioners, there was a general sense of “we’ll believe it when we see it.” Their caution was well founded, since in recent years the actual spring runs were very different from the forecasts. Last year was no different: The spring and summer runs were significantly lower than predicted. Adding to the uncertainty was the late arrival of this run.

It turned out that most 2012 chinook runs were near or just below average, the steelhead and coho numbers were quite a bit lower than average, and the sockeye run was the largest return since Bonneville Dam was built.

This brings us to this year’s forecasts. Right now, the predictions are showing a much smaller run than last year. The spring chinook forecast of 141,400 is 55% lower than last year’s forecast, the summer

CRITFC Executive Director’s Message

chinook forecast of 73,500 is 19% lower, and the sockeye forecast of 180,500 is 61% lower.

I see these predictions and hope they turn out to be low, however if they are correct, we have still mercifully passed the era we saw in the 1990s when as few as 10,000 spring chinook passed Bonneville and we were worried about the possible extinction of some runs of salmon. Whatever happens, I am confident the tribes will use wisdom in setting the fisheries that will balance the needs of the resource with the needs of their members.

This balance is an important part of honoring the salmon, and I look forward to taking part in the 2013 First Salmon Ceremony. We can express our gratitude for the fish that have returned and reflect on the disaster of salmon extinction that was narrowly averted, due in large part to the diligence and dedication of the tribes to protect this First Food.



Paul Lumley
YAKAMA



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