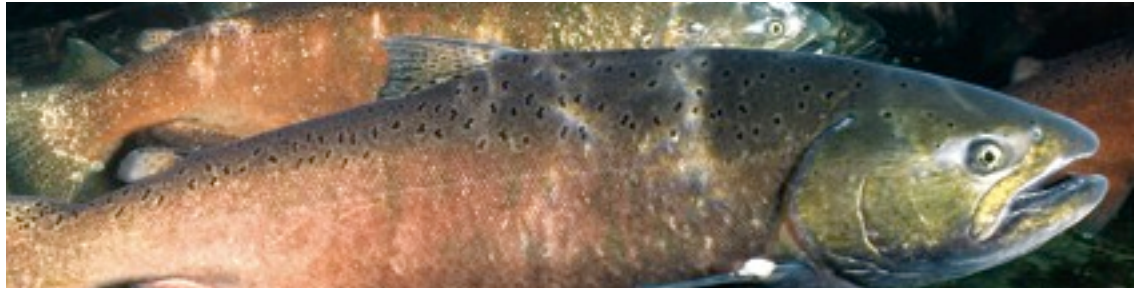




June 2010



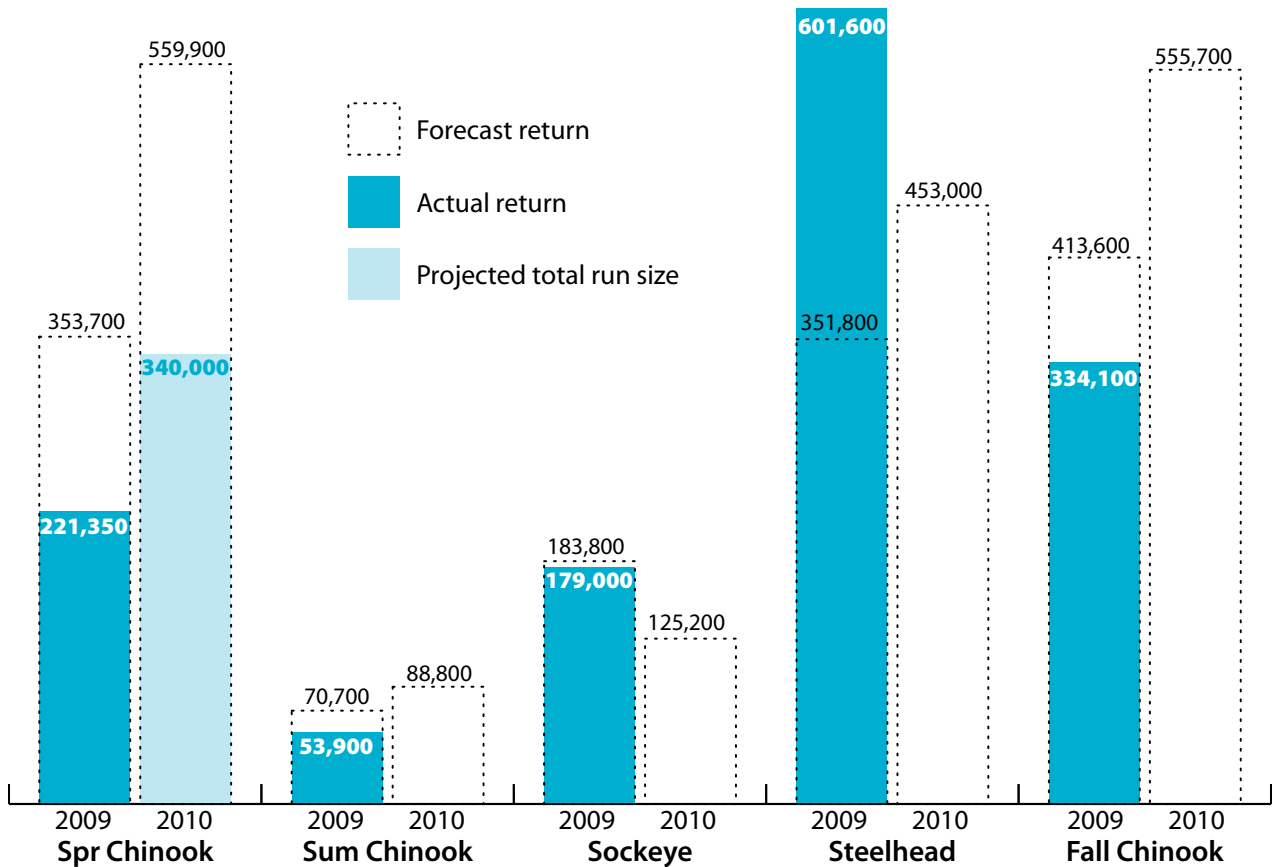
## 2010 Fall Fishery Update

The 2009/2010 salmon run forecasts shown with the actual return. The graph also shows the most current in-season projection for the 2010 spring chinook run that is going on now.

The spring chinook run, while not meeting forecasts, has still been a large run. This summer and fall's fish runs are looking promising, as well. The forecast for summer chinook is 88,800, slightly higher than last year's forecast. Not as many sockeye are expected to return this year, with a forecast of 125,200, down from 183,800 last year. Both the summer chinook and sockeye forecasts are larger than average. Upriver steelhead forecasts look extremely promising, estimating 453,000—101,000 more than last year's forecast. The fall chinook forecast is even better, with an estimate of 555,700—a marked increase from last year's forecast of 413,600. Please note that these are all pre-season forecasts and are simply predictions. Management agreements for all Columbia River fisheries base harvest rates and openings on actual run sizes only; the forecasts are merely used as guidelines for pre-season planning. See the graph for how the actual return compared to last year's estimates.

Given these numbers, it is extremely likely there will be good opportunities for summer season commercial gillnet fishing in Zone 6. Fall season fisheries are likely to be similar to recent years.

The tribes will begin summer season fisheries planning in early June. The details of the fall fishery are expected to be set by the tribes in mid-August. CRITFC will send out a fisher's mailing with dates, restrictions, and any other information related to the fishery as the information becomes available. If you do not currently receive these announcements, call (503) 238-0667 or email [fdsk@critfc.org](mailto:fdsk@critfc.org) to be added to the mailing list. You can also contact your own tribe's harvest manager.



# Safety on the River

## critfc executive director's message



Paul Lumley

With a heavy heart I heard the tragic news last month that Nch'i-Wána had claimed the lives of another three fishers. My thoughts and prayers are with their families and the tribal community in general. The loss of a fisher takes not only a life, but it also takes a part of the salmon fishing wisdom and knowledge of traditions that have

### Safety precautions have always been a part of fishing on the Columbia.

been passed down for generations. Salmon fishing is one of the central parts of our culture here in the Columbia River Basin. It is a sacred activity that has always had its dangers, but in recent years, the number of deaths has troublingly increased.

Now is a time for mourning the recent loss, but it is also a time to pledge to do everything possible to ensure that it will never happen again. Safety precautions have always been a part of fishing on the Columbia. Most of the photos I see of Celilo Falls show careful fishers standing on the platforms with ropes around their waists. Drawing on

traditions like this, the Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce tribes, along with CRITFC, are working to provide all the fishers with information and materials to keep the tribal fishery safe. CRITFC Enforcement is offering safety

inspections and classes to any fisher willing to participate and a generous BIA grant allows Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce fishers to purchase inflatable life jackets at a reduced cost. Other activities and information are featured in this issue of the Dipnetter.

You each carry the precious wisdom and knowledge of tribal salmon culture; future generations are counting on you to pass it on to them. Please, be safe on the river and always wear your life jacket.

### Fishing tragedy Columbia River claims lives of three Yakama fishers

On April 30 at 7:47 a.m., Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Enforcement received a distress call from a capsized fishing boat. Rough river conditions swamped the boat near Celilo Village. The boat was returning to shore loaded with salmon the four-person Yakama crew had just pulled from their nets. One fisher, Johnny Jack, managed to reach the shore, however the other three fishers perished. Following Yakama custom, the names of the deceased are not printed here. A recovery effort by the Yakama, Warm Springs, Grand Ronde, Puyallup, Tulalip, Umatilla, and Quinalt tribes, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard, Klickitat County, Wasco County, and volunteers began immediately following the incident. The bodies of two of the fishers were recovered that morning and the search continues for the body of the third.

### Yakama Nation approves CRITFE enforcement commissions

For the first time in eight years, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Enforcement has commissions from all four of its member tribes. This allows CRITFC officers to cite fishers into their respective tribal courts. Last month, the Yakama Nation renewed their law enforcement commission to CRITFC Enforcement following a meeting for Yakama fishers held in The Dalles on April 21. Prior to receiving this commission, CRITFC Enforcement could cite Nez Perce, Umatilla, and Warm Springs fishers into their respective tribal courts, but they were forced to cite Yakama fishers into Washington or Oregon state courts. Now all the tribes can deal with fishing violations of their own members in their own courts in an exercise of tribal sovereignty.

### Over-the-bank receipt books

Fishers running low on over-the-bank receipts can now pick up refill booklets at the CRITFC Enforcement office in Hood River. The receipts are useful for fishers to keep track of sales and are required by non-Indian customers who are required by Oregon state law to have a receipt showing the fisher's information and information about the purchased fish when in possession of an Indian-caught salmon.

| FISH SALES RECEIPT   |           |  |          |       |
|--|-----------|--|----------|-------|
|  |           | <b>Columbia River Indian Salmon Harvest</b><br>Yakama - Warm Springs - Umatilla - Nez Perce<br>(888) 289-1855 - www.critfc.org/harvest |          |       |
| FISHER   | Name      | Tribal ID  |          |       |
|  | Phone     | Tribe  |          |       |
| BUYER  | Name      |  |          |       |
|  | Phone     | Email address  |          |       |
| FISH PURCHASED   | # of fish | total lbs  | price/lb | total |
|  | Chinook   |  |          |       |
|  | Steelhead |  |          |       |
|  | Coho      |  |          |       |
|  | Sockeye   |  |          |       |
|  | Other     |  |          |       |
| Pool <input type="checkbox"/> BOWN <input type="checkbox"/> DALLES <input type="checkbox"/> IDAY |           | Total  |          |       |
| Date   |           | / /  |          |       |

Thank you

## Boat safety classes and inspections

In the past three years, nine fishers have lost their lives to the Columbia River and the tribes are working to help prevent any more fatal accidents in the future, but we all need to work together to make the river a safer place.

Fishing on the Columbia River is quite dangerous. In fact, the Washington Fatality Assessment & Control Evaluation program recently released a study of work-related fatalities in Washington State from 1998 through 2006 and almost a quarter of the deaths were drownings on the Columbia River. During the course of those eight years, there were 21 work-related deaths, 19 of which were drownings. Of those 19, none were wearing a life jacket and half of victims were Indian. Among all boating accident drownings nationally, ninety percent were not wearing a life jacket. The single most effective thing anyone out in a boat can do to prevent accidental drowning is to wear a life jacket. There are many different types of life jackets available and fishers often ask which one is the best. The answer is: the one you are willing to wear.

In an effort to assist fishers, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Enforcement, Umatilla Fish & Game Enforcement, and Corps of Engineers will be conducting free boat safety inspections at various locations throughout Zone 6 (see schedule below). Boats that successfully pass this inspection will be issued a decal similar to the one issued to non-Indian boats by the Oregon State Marine Board and will be valid for one year. This is an annual inspection, so the decals will be a different color each year. Officers at the inspections will also provide information on boat safety, free whistles, and other safety-related materials. For the boat safety inspection checklist, see “Boat safety regulations” on page 2.

All fishers are encouraged to have their boat inspected. The inspection is mandatory for Umatilla fishers and voluntary for Yakama, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce fishers. The 2010 Umatilla Emergency Regulations requires all Umatilla members’ boats to have their safety inspection before July 1.

## Boat safety inspection schedule

- **May 15**, noon to 5 p.m. at Maryhill treaty fishing access site
- **May 22**, 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Maryhill State Park (open to Indian and non-Indian boaters)
- **May 23**, noon to 5 p.m. at Celilo treaty fishing access site
- **June 19**, 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Le Page Park (open to Indian and non-Indian boaters).

## Boat safety regulations

CRITFC does not set any boat safety regulations. Each tribe has its own boat safety regulations that its members are subject to. Below is a list of the primary boat safety practices along with which tribes have a regulation requiring their members to follow each one. Every one of these practices is potentially life saving and we encourage every fisher on the river to follow all of these guidelines. If your tribe doesn’t require compliance of a particular practice, you can still follow it voluntarily for the safety of you and your boat crew.



CRITFC chairman McCoy Oatman (left) and executive director Paul Lumley participated in a chef’s collaborative in San Francisco that featured Columbia River Indian-caught salmon. From this outreach, CRITFC hopes to open up a market for Indian-caught salmon sales in the Bay Area.

| Tribal Safety Regulations   | Y | W | U | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A <b>life jacket or personal flotation device</b> for each person on the boat   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Have <b>running lights</b> and use from dusk to dawn                            | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Have a <b>sound-producing device</b> on board                                   | ✓ | ✓ |   |   |
| Have a <b>fire extinguisher</b> on board  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Have a <b>first aid kit and flashlight</b> on board                             | ✓ |   |   |   |
| Have a <b>radio, cell phone</b> , or other communication device on board        | ✓ |   | ✓ |   |
| Operating or fishing from a boat while <b>intoxicated</b> is strictly forbidden | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Boat operators have a <b>boating safety education</b> certification             |   | ✓ |   |   |
| Boats must pass a <b>boat safety inspection</b>                                 |   |   | ✓ |   |

*Y: Yakama; W: Warm Springs; U: Umatilla; N: Nez Perce. Indicates that the checked tribe has a regulation requiring its members to follow that safety practice.*

## Tribal member discount for self-inflating life jackets

If you picture a puffy, bright orange vest with lots of net-snagging buckles when someone says “life jacket,” you need to see the modern flotation devices that are available nowadays. A new generation of self-inflating life jackets looks like a small tube that goes around your neck and quickly inflates with a compressed CO2 cartridge. These life jackets still allow full range of motion, are low-profile to minimize the potential for snagging on nets, and are reusable. Thanks to a partnership between CRITFC, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and The Dalles Marine Supply all Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce fishers are eligible for a \$50 discount on select self-inflating life jackets. The program, now in its second year, has been a big success with the 100th life jacket being recently sold. There is still funding available in this program and all interested fishers are encouraged to contact The Dalles Marine Supply (E 1st St & Jefferson, The

Dalles, 541-296-4111) for eligibility requirements or to purchase life jackets. The store also stocks the CO2 cartridges that the life jackets use.

## Invasive species workgroup

Recently the Oregon Legislature passed the Clean Launch Act to address the growing threat of accidental introductions of invasive aquatic species. This law was passed as a way of preventing a host of invasive mussels and aquatic plants that have wreaked havoc on the Great Lakes area from infesting the Columbia River and other waters in Oregon. The law requires boaters to thoroughly clean their boats prior to launching them in Oregon’s waters. Transporting an unclean boat on the state’s highways and roads will also draw the attention of law enforcement. CRITFC, CRITFC Enforcement, and the Oregon State Marine Board are currently in talks on how this law will apply to Indian-owned boats. Since the law is designed to prevent invasions from

infected waters and the overall majority of Indian-owned boats used in Zone 6 are confined to that river stretch, one possible solution will be exemptions for Indian-owned boats as long as they remain within 10 miles of the river along Zone 6 during open fishing seasons. Boat owners would still be required to thoroughly clean their boats when transporting them outside this “clean zone,” but they wouldn’t have to worry about cleaning their boats when traveling between Zone 6 fishing sites. These talks are still preliminary and as soon as specific rules are negotiated with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon State Marine Board, they will be provided to all the fishers. Also, since the Indian fishers are often the eyes and ears of the river, CRITFC will also be providing information on how to identify suspect boats that may have invasive species in or on them. Fishers may spot these suspect boats on the highway or at boat launches. It will be very important to quickly report them before they get in the water.



THE DIPNETTER  
**Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission**  
 729 NE Oregon, Suite 200  
 Portland, OR 97232  
[www.critfc.org](http://www.critfc.org)



## CRITEC Commissioners



**CRITFC Chairman McCoy Oatman**

**Yakama** · (509) 865-5121  
 Virgil Lewis Sr. (secretary), Richard George, Sam Jim Sr., Gerald Lewis

**Umatilla** · (541) 276-3165  
 N. Kathryn Brigham (treasurer), Ken Hall, James Marsh, Mitch Pond, Chris Williams

**Warm Springs** · (541) 553-3257  
 Bruce Jim (vice-chairman), Leslie Bill, Olney Patt Jr., Ryan Smith, Sacredheart Suppah

**Nez Perce** · (208) 843-2253  
 McCoy Oatman (chairman), Brooklyn Baptiste, Julia Davis-Wheeler, Tonia Garcia, Larry Greene, Joanna Marek, Joel Moffett, Allen Slickpoo Jr., Roberta Bisbee, Marie Arthur, Elmer Crow, Quintin E. Ellenwood, Erik Holt, Herbert Jackson