

Officers assist when fishing gear is damaged Grant helps with food safety

This is a common scenario: The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement team receives a call from a tribal fisherman who reports that fishing gear - a gill net, for instance - has been damaged.

A dispatcher will ask various questions. Many times the answers offer only minimal information, and there often are long delays from the time when the incident occurred to when it is reported. The responding officers feel frustrated with these kinds of cases, said Brent Ocheskey, of Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement (CRITFE).

The CRITFE officers have to explain to the fisherman, who is mad about losing valuable gear, fish and time, that the enforcement officers can't really do anything with the information that has been provided, because there just aren't any leads.

On the flip side, there have been many cases where CRITFE has helped tribal fishers collect compensation from boaters or companies that have caused damage. When officers of CRITFE have the right information, they can and do help in the recovery of monetary losses.

Mostly civil cases

Most damaged gear complaints are a civil matter between the tribal fisherman and the person or company that is responsible for the damage.

The initial role of the CRITFE officer is to determine

whether or not what occurred was criminal in nature or purely accidental.

When CRITFE receives detailed information, then officers are able to contact the person who caused the damage and determine this initial question.

The potential crimes include failure to report an accident, boating under the influence, reckless boating, criminal mischief, interfering with a lawful fishery, among many others.

During a criminal trial, compensation to the victim can be awarded.

On the other hand, if CRITFE determines that there should be no criminal charges, then the officers assist in the transferring of information for civil restitution.

This would be the same as a traffic officer responding to the scene of a minor traffic accident.

After information is traded, the role of the officer is most likely done. The thing that sets CRITFE apart from many police departments is that the officers go the extra distance to help retrieve information for the tribal members, said Ocheskey.

"We have called barge companies, made long distance phone calls and even traveled outside our coverage area just to check on leads, or to try to help gather extra information to better assist the tribal fisher," he said. "In some cases we have even been in the court room during the civil case."

CRITFE would like to suggest ways to make their job as fisheries enforcement officers more effective in recovering losses of the tribal fishermen:

Identify your gear with your enrollment number and name. Know the gear you are fishing with and be able to describe it. Know exactly where your gear is fishing.

If you are the head fisherman, and are not actually fishing the gear, then please try to know exactly where it is set.

Know how many gill nets or other property you have out. Attempt to have someone watch your gear at all times or keep as close a watch on it as possible. This is especially true for high traffic areas near marinas or boat docks.

If possible carry a cell phone with you, or know where a payphone is. The CRITFE 1-800 number is free to dial from a payphone: 1-800-487-FISH (3474).

Try to minimize third party or second-hand reporting. Attempt to have the person that actually saw the damage call. Call immediately and note the exact time when an incident occurred. The faster the call the quicker we can respond.

"As the tribal fishermen know, we have a very large coverage area," said Ocheskey.

"If we are working in Umatilla and we get a call in Cascade Locks, it is going to take time to respond. If you

add this to the already delayed call time, you can see where problems start compounding."

If you feel as though you can wait to make contact with the people that caused the damage until an officer arrives, do so.

If there is no time to wait and contact is necessary be polite and non-confrontational. Attempt to gain a name and initially advise them of what has occurred.

(Note: this article was submitted to the Spilyay for publication by Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement.)

The First Nations Development Institute has awarded nearly \$80,000 to the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission to develop food-safety regulations with the Warm Springs, Umatilla, Nez Perce and Yakama Nation tribes.

The grant, part of the institute's Eagle Staff Fund and its Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative, will help CRITFC accomplish four goals:

Develop food-safety regulatory codes for review by CRITFC member tribes; provide information on the regula-

tory codes to the tribes and tribal fishers; help tribal fishers merge the new requirements into harvesting and processing procedures and specialty-product development; and help tribal fishers market products developed under the new regulations.

CRITFC each year coordinates food-safety seminars for tribal fishers, which provide information for processing seafood safely. The seminars, part of a long-term push to expand tribal access to the commercial fishing market, have trained more

than 500 treaty-tribe fishers.

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Salmon tortilla roll-ups are savory entertaining food

Salmon tortilla roll-ups are an easily made appetizer that would be a savory addition to party menus, whether Indian-summer picnics, tailgating spreads, neighborhood potlucks or any other of the festive occasions now ahead of us.

The recipe comes from Kathy Cary, executive chef and owner of Lilly's restaurant and La Peche Catering, in Louisville, Ky. "Feeding a crowd doesn't need to take a lot of time," she says. "These appetizers are simple to make, but they taste and look like you've spent all day in the kitchen preparing them."

"The key to this recipe is starting out with flavorful salmon - I always use real butter in sauteing because it adds richness, while sealing in the food's natural flavors and juices. The zesty peppered cheese, chipotle and avocado give the dish a Southwest, tangy kick."

The recipe offers the alternative of using chicken instead of salmon, if you prefer.

Salmon Tortilla Roll-Ups
(Preparation 25 minutes, cooking time 8 minutes)

10 ounces salmon fillet, skinless (see note)

1 medium white onion, sliced into 1/4-inch slices

4 tablespoons (2 ounces) butter

1/2 cup (4 ounces) cream cheese, softened

1 tablespoon diced chipotle in adobe sauce (available in small cans), or 1 tablespoon fresh chopped jalapeno

Four 12-inch flour tortillas

4 leaves romaine lettuce, shredded

1 chopped tomato

1 whole avocado, diced and tossed in lime juice

In a medium skillet, saute the salmon and sliced onion in butter for 4 minutes. Set aside to cool. Mix cream cheese and diced chipotle. Spread the mixture evenly on tortillas, and then top evenly with cooked onion, lettuce, tomato and avocado.

Slice the salmon lengthwise into eight 6-inch slices. Place two salmon strips slightly off-center on each tortilla and roll tightly.

Heat grill to medium heat; place rolls on grill and cook, turning to mark each side, about 2 minutes per side. Slice each tortilla roll-up into 8 sections.

Note: You may substitute 10 ounces of chicken for the salmon. Saute the chicken in butter for 10 minutes.

Makes 32 mini rolls.

Nutrition information per 1-roll serving: 100 cal., 5 g fat (2 g saturated), 15 mg chol., 100 mg sodium, 10 g carbo., less than 1 g dietary fiber, 4 g pro.

(Recipe for AP developed by Kathy Cary, on behalf of the American Dairy Association and American Butter Institute)

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