

# Good year for salmon, help needed for lamprey

## CRITFC reflects on productive 2014

The year 2014 was a busy one for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the member tribes. The work focused on salmon, lamprey, river health and treaty fishing.

The record numbers of salmon returning to the Columbia River system was another indicator that the efforts to reverse the salmon decline are paying off, benefiting the species, the ecosystem, and the Indian fishers and families that depend on this first food.

Cooperation was a common theme throughout the year as the tribes continued to strengthen partnerships with federal and state agencies and other organizations. Many of the actions the

tribes have advocated decades for can only be accomplished by combining resources with other partners.

### Climate change

Despite the year's successes, everything isn't rosy. The effects of unusual and shifting weather caused from climate change are beginning to be seen throughout the Columbia River Basin and all signs point to these effects only increasing.

No one is sure how great an impact this will have on the region and on salmon, but it is cause for concern for the tribes, and something that CRITFC will continue to dedicate time and attention to in the coming year.

### Lamprey

Lamprey continue to struggle in a hydrosystem that was not designed for

needs and their dwindling numbers are evidence of this. In the past year, they have received more attention, and we hope that this translates into more action to protect this ancient fish that is important to the tribes and the ecosystem.

"The challenges are not small, but looking back, I am proud of what the tribes have been able to accomplish," said CRITFC executive director Paul Lumley. "I hold out hope that the same resilience, strength, traditional knowledge, and determination that brought us—and the salmon—back from the brink of extinction will carry us into the future, too."

The CRITFC-produced film *The Lost Fish* highlighted the importance of lamprey to the tribes and the tribal efforts to save them.

The film was selected for

*The 2014 salmon run passed 2.5 million fish...*

inclusion in the EcoFilm Festival in July. The screening concluded with Nez Perce elder Elmer Crow being posthumously awarded the Eco Hero award for his work on lamprey advocacy and restoration. The film was screened at a variety of other locations throughout the region and has been very well received.

### Record salmon run

Thanks partly to intense tribal restoration efforts, the 2014 salmon run passed 2.5 million fish. This number includes chinook, sockeye, coho, and steelhead adults and jacks.

On September 7, the record for number of fish passing Bonneville Dam was

broken when 67,024 fall chinook passed. On the very next day, the record was broken again when 67,521 passed.

The total chinook run for the year was 1,152,603 adults and 187,009 jacks. The sockeye run was the largest since fish counting began at Bonneville Dam in 1938. A total of 614,179 fish passed the dam on their way to spawn in British Columbia, north-central Washington, and Idaho.

### Restoring fish passage

CRITFC coordinated the third Future of Our Salmon Conference, this one focusing on restoring fish to all their historical locations, including past dams that currently offer no fish passage.

A preliminary three-day technical workshop in Spokane for scientists, biologists,

and other technical specialists concluded that reintroduction to blocked areas was possible given current technology and engineering capacity.

At the main conference in Portland, attended by over 300 people, the findings from the technical workshop were presented, along with cultural and tribal leader presentations and panels of tribal, federal, and state officials.

### Record commercial fishery

The value of this year's tribal commercial fishery value was estimated to exceed \$7 million. The strong fish run played a role, but the fishers were able to command premium prices due to the quality of the fish they are delivering, which is due to quality handling techniques that have become standard practice for the majority of tribal fishers.

## W.S. Food Bank distributing Tuesdays

The Warm Springs Food Bank is located at the Presbyterian Church.

They are open Sundays 11:30-1:30. The Jefferson County Food Bank is at 556 SE Seventh Street.

They distribute food on Tuesday afternoons. All food banks and pantries do take donations of non-perishable food or cash.

## Museum winter hours

The Museum at Warm Springs is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, closed on Sundays and Mondays.

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Live entertainment until 1am by regional favorites COUNTRYFIED (Dance, Rock and Country)

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