

# Tribal fishery

There is a tribal fishery through 6 p.m. this Thursday, August 27; and second fishery starting at 6 a.m. on Monday, August 31 through 6 p.m., Thursday, September 3.

Gear includes set and drift gillnets with 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Allowable sales:

Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence.

Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon may not be sold. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville pool, and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be kept for subsistence purposes.

Closed areas: River mouth and dam are closed areas applicable to gillnets. The Standard Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary is in effect. Covid guidelines: Please review the Safe Fishers guidelines to help prevent the spread of Covid-19, and protect the vulnerable members of the tribal community. See: [critfc.org/safe-fishers-safe-fishers/](http://critfc.org/safe-fishers-safe-fishers/)

There will be a Compact hearing at 10 a.m. on September 3 to consider additional fishing. The zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery regulations remain unchanged.

If you have any fishery enforcement problems or need assistance or information, day or night, contact the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement Office, 541-386-6363; or toll free 800-487-FISH (3474).

Show pride in your tribes' treaty rights by carrying your tribal ID. Please consult your tribal Fisheries Department for additional details or tribal regulations.

# More flexible sea lion removal policy

Sea lions can consume up to 44 percent of the Columbia River's spring Chinook salmon run, and 25 percent of the Willamette winter steelhead run each year.

Federal officials last week approved the killing of hundreds of sea lions and near the Columbia River to help protect endangered salmon.

This marks the biggest expansion of this program, as supported by the Confederated Tribes.

Steller sea lions for the first time join California sea lions as targets of 'lethal control.' Another new aspect of the program:

Individual sea lions will not need to be documented as salmon predators before they can be killed. Instead, the animal just needs to be in the nearly 200-mile stretch of the Columbia and its tributaries covered under the program.

These are policies of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration policy.



Courtesy ODFW

Problem sea lion at the Columbia

## Increasing problem

The targeted area runs up the Columbia River from the Interstate 205 bridge to the McNary Dam, as well as any tributaries. The permit also includes any area with spawning habitats of threatened or endangered salmon.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs—joined by the Umatilla and Yakama nations, plus the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho—last year filed the permit application.

The latest changes to the policy allow for more flex-

ibility in taking the sea lions.

Scientists have been studying this problem for two decades now. According to the 2020 policy:

Eligible entities or permit applicants may not remove more than 540 California sea lions, and no more than 176 Steller sea lions during this five-year period.

Combining all sea lion permit removals, it may not exceed 10 percent of the potential biological removal or population of the species.

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's Senior Fisheries Scientist Doug

Hatch said many different methods have been used in the past to remove sea lions in the area.

These include capturing the mammals and transporting them to other locations or hazing them. However, the marine mammals often come back within a matter of days.

In recent years more Steller sea lions have been showing up and staying for longer periods of time.

Meanwhile, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has applied for a permit to kill sea lions at Willamette Falls to protect a threatened run of winter steelhead. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has tried to prevent sea lions from eating winter steelhead at Willamette Falls by capturing them and driving them to the Oregon Coast. The strategy has not been successful.

The permit for removal took effect earlier this month, and runs through the summer of 2025.

# A salmon physiologist in science policy

Zach Penney is half Nez Perce and half Polish-Swedish. He has a Ph.D. in fisheries from the University of Idaho.

He now works as the Fishery Science Department manager for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

In spite of going to school in a predominantly white town, his father—also Nez Perce—made sure Penney always had a strong connection with his tribe.

His family used to go fishing, and he could tell from an early age that salmon fishing was culturally very significant.

"You could just kind of sense it by the way that my family treated steelhead and salmon," Penney said.

"There was a totally different, I would say ceremonial, feeling about those fish."



Dr. Zach Penney

It was during those fishing trips that Penney realized he wanted to work in fisheries. "It's just in our DNA to be fishermen," he reflected. He wanted to dedicate his life to do something that he enjoyed and could make an impact on the Nimiipuu people.

His job bridges together the interests of the Native American tribes the commission serves—Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla

and Nez Perce—and the other economic interests for preserving the fish.

"The science I do is for both the fish and the treaty tribes. The fish are central to who the tribes are, so the science is rooted in our very own identity. We are part of the same ecosystem and co-evolved together.

"A good chunk of what I do is related to policy and the historical context about why some of the things are the way they are," Penney said about his work.

"The states have made decisions over the last 150 years that have not necessarily chosen a good future for salmon. They've made choices based on capitalistic needs. But treaty rights are not just about catching fish, it's about the right that there's actually fish to catch."

He thinks that one of the

biggest obstacles for Native Americans to get into science careers is a misperception—that those who leave tribal land will never come back.

"Of course you do come back," he said. "Getting a degree is going to change you. It makes you a much more effective warrior to learn this Western science perspective, but it doesn't change your memories. I mean, you're still who you are, you can always come home."

Regarding his own experience, Penney sees it as if he unintentionally followed the path of the salmon. He went to the Pacific following them, and then came back home to work for their preservation.

*This article is courtesy of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.*

**MEET YOUR TEACHER & Pick Up School Supplies DRIVE THROUGH at the Warm Springs K8**



**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH**

K + 1st 8-9am	5th grade 12-1pm
2nd grade 9-10am	6th grade 1-2pm
3rd grade 10-11am	7th grade 2-3pm
4th grade 11am-12pm	8th grade 3-4pm



**Computer Distribution 1-7pm**

Mon- 8/31 at Madras High School  
 Tue - 9/1 at Madras High School  
 Wed - 9/2 at Warm Springs K-8 Academy  
 Thu - 9/3 at Warm Springs K-8 Academy  
 Fri - 9/4 at Madras High School

**By appointment - check your email or they will call to schedule a pick up time. For info call 541-553-1128.**

## Around Indian Country

# Alaska communities already claim fishery disasters

Unless you fished for salmon this summer at Bristol Bay, it's been slim pickings for fishermen in other Alaska regions.

Salmon returns have been so poor that communities already are claiming fishery disasters.

This month Cordova's City Council unanimously passed a resolution asking the state to declare disasters for both the 2018 Copper River sockeye and chinook

salmon runs and the 2020 sockeye, chum and chinook runs at the Copper River and Prince William Sound.

The resolution also urges the state and federal governments to declare a "condition of economic disaster in Cordova as a result."

The town of 2,500 is now the first of what will likely be at least one or two others to ask for a fisheries and economic disaster declaration in 2020.

"It's looking like one of the worst years in Chignik history," said Ross Renick, area manager for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Salmon catches throughout Cook Inlet are bleak again this year with a total take barely topping 2.7 million, mostly pinks. Only 748,000 sockeyes have come out of the Inlet so far this season.

Southeast Alaska com-

munities also are being hit hard by weak returns; by Aug. 8 the total catch for the region had yet to reach six million salmon. For pinks, the catch was nearing 4 million out of an already low forecast of 12 million fish, one-third of the 10-year average of 35 million humpies.

Also low were pink prices: A nickel a pound compares to a regionwide average of 33 cents in 2019.

# COCC joins initiative for teaching drone technology

Central Oregon Community College's unmanned aerial systems program is now part of a new federal initiative designed to train students seeking a career in drone technology.

COCC recently signed an agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration to provide students the most up-to-date curriculum and

practices.

The Unmanned Aircraft Systems Collegiate Training Initiative is the FAA's recently unveiled program that partners with higher education institutions to best prepare students seeking careers in the rapidly developing field of drones, while ensuring that the training meets the requirements of the National Air-

space System.

"Our participation in this national unmanned aircraft education program will help support the continuing effort to offer our students training that is most relevant to the industry," said Karl Baldessari, director of COCC's aviation program. "For our students, this means achieving the skills and stan-

dards that will allow them to stand out in the workforce."

For more information, contact COCC's Director of Communications Jenn Kovitz at 206-227-9991 or [jkovitz@cocc.edu](mailto:jkovitz@cocc.edu).

As part of the agreement, COCC will meet all program standards, and maintain a current knowledge of UAS laws and regulations.

