



Jordan Mercier, on platform, Brian Krehbiel, on rocks, dip fishing nets into the water during the first day of fishing at Willamette Falls on Tuesday, May 4. Fishing will be held on Tuesday and Thursday until the end of May.



Fish & Wildlife Program Manager Kelly Dirksen gives instructions to, from left, Tribal fishermen Jordan Mercier, Kyle McLaughlin, Bobby Mercier and Andrew Freeman before heading to the fishing platform at Willamette Falls for the first day of fishing on Tuesday, May 4. Fishing will be held on Tuesday and Thursday until the end of May. The removable platform has been up since October 2018, but this is the first time it has been used since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Tribe is allowed to catch 15 hatchery grown Chinook salmon or summer steelhead for ceremonial purposes per Oregon Department of State Lands rules. Dirksen reported that no fish were caught during the first three outings.

Falls fishing



The boat carrying Tribal members forges through the rapids at Willamette Falls on the first day of fishing on Tuesday, May 4.

Tribe schedules ceremonial fishing at Willamette Falls

OREGON CITY – The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde resumed ceremonial fishing at Willamette Falls on Tuesdays and Thursdays in May, said Tribal Fish & Wildlife Program Manager Kelly Dirksen.

The first excursion occurred on Tuesday, May 4. Ceremonial fishing at the falls was canceled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Oregon Department of State Lands granted approval to the Grand Ronde Tribe on Aug. 31, 2018, to build a removable platform at Willamette Falls on which to harvest its annual state-approved take of 15 Chinook salmon and/or hatchery summer steelhead for ceremonial purposes.

The Tribe blessed the site on Sept. 4, 2018, and constructed a removable fishing platform at Willamette Falls in October 2018. The first fish netted at Willamette Falls by Tribal ceremonial fishermen occurred in May 2019.

Fishing from the platform can continue through the end of July or until the Tribe catches its allotment of 15.

This year's ceremonial fishermen are Bobby Mercier, Jordan Mercier, Colby Drake, Joe Loomis, Jade Unger, Andrew Freeman, Daniel Mooney, Nick Kimsey, David DeHart, Brian Krehbiel, Sara Thompson, Terry Kowing and Bradley Leno. ■

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS
Find us on
SmokeSignalsCTGR



SEE MORE OF THIS STORY
Visit YouTube
CTGRsmokesignals



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez