

## BE SAFE AND RESPECT TRIBAL PRACTICES

Tribal fishers use a variety of techniques to harvest salmon throughout the Columbia Basin. Platforms provide accessible fishing locations to favorable fishing sites. Fishers lower long-handled dip nets or set nets into the water beneath the platform. River currents push the nets downstream as the salmon swim upstream.

Although the river and its surroundings have changed over time, tribal fishers continue to fish in their usual and accustomed sites and ways.

Platform sites belong to individual families, passing from one generation to the next.

**PLEASE BE SAFE, ACT RESPONSIBLY AND RESPECT TRIBAL TREATY RIGHTS — STAY CLEAR OF THE PLATFORMS AND NETS.**



## CONTACT US

**If you have questions, comments or concerns about tribal fishing on the Columbia River, please contact:**



**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
Portland District

**Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
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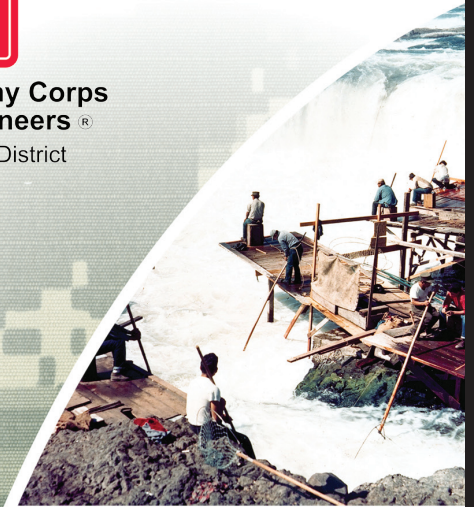
**Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement Department**  
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**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
Portland District



**TRIBAL FISHING ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER**

### THE RIGHT TO FISH

Native American people have fished, gathered, hunted and lived on the Columbia River for thousands of years.

The Nez Perce, Umatilla, Yakama and Warm Springs tribes negotiated treaties with the United States government in 1855, ceding most of their lands but reserving the right to fish forever at “all usual and accustomed fishing places ...”

Treaties are “the supreme Law of the Land” under Article VI of the United States Constitution. The United States guarantees protection of tribal property rights, including tribal fisheries, under these four 1855 treaties.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a trust responsibility to honor these treaties and protect tribal fishing rights.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF SALMON

*Courtesy Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission*

Salmon play an integral part of tribal religion, culture and commerce, and of our spiritual and cultural identity.

- Tribal longhouses and churches rely on salmon for religious services.
- The annual salmon return and its celebration by our people assure the renewal and continuation of human and all other life.
- Salmon are indicator species. As water becomes degraded and fish populations decline, so too will the elk, deer, roots, berries and medicines that sustain us.
- The annual return of the salmon allows the transfer of traditional values from generation to generation.

*“Without salmon returning to our rivers and streams, we would cease to be Indian people.”*

*~Paul Lumley, Executive Director, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission*

### PARTNERS IN SALMON MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY

Pacific Northwest fisheries are co-managed by tribal, federal and state government agencies.

These agencies coordinate, adopt and enforce fishing regulations pursuant to an extensive body of law, including domestic and international treaties governing harvest shares.

The Columbia Basin’s fisheries managers are also engaged in the world’s largest salmon rebuilding program, which is restoring stream and river habitat for returning salmon.

*“Salmon and the rivers they use are part of our sense of place. The Creator put us here where the salmon return. We are obliged to remain and to protect this place.”*

*~Virgil Lewis, Yakama Nation*

