



The Secretary welcomed the initiative taken by Oregon Governor Tom McCall to establish a Columbia River Indian Treaty Fisheries Council to improve understanding between the State and the tribes on matters affecting Indian fishing. A meeting to discuss formation of such a council was held July 11 at Salem, Oregon. State agencies from Washington, Oregon and Idaho, the Department of the Interior, and the four Columbia River Indian tribes (Yakima, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Nez Perce) were invited to attend the meeting. Interior Department representatives explained the new Federal regulations.

Last year the United States Department of Justice successfully defended numerous Indians charged in Washington and Oregon State courts with violating State fishing laws that did not make special allowances for Indian treaty rights. As a result, State authorities this year have not arrested Indians on the Columbia River when they were fishing in compliance with tribal regulations. The Department of the Interior has assisted Oregon State efforts to prosecute Indians who were not conforming to tribal conservation restrictions.

The new Interior Department regulations follow in substantial form the draft of proposed regulations published in the Federal Register July 16, 1965. Comments submitted by State and Federal agencies, Indian tribes and other persons have been considered in drafting the revised regulations. The new regulations will become effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

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