

Usual and Accustomed Fishing Areas Regulatory Update

On September 3, 2015, the Federal District Court for the Western District of Washington issued a final order determining certain boundaries for the usual and accustomed fishing areas of the Quileute and Quinault Tribes in the Pacific Ocean (2:09-sp-00001-RSM, Makah Indian Tribe's Request for Determination Re Quileute and Quinault Usual and Accustomed Fishing Grounds in the Pacific Ocean). The court's findings are as follows:

1. Quileute's usual and accustomed ocean fishing boundaries are:
 - a. Northern boundary: 48°10'00" N. latitude (Cape Alava).
 - b. Western boundary: 125°44'00" W. longitude.
 - c. Southern boundary: 47°31'42" N. latitude (Queets River).
2. Quinault's usual and accustomed ocean fishing boundaries are:
 - a. Northern boundary: 47°40'06" N. latitude.
 - b. Western boundary: 125°08'30" W. longitude.
 - c. Southern boundary: 46°53'18" N. latitude.

For more information on the court's decision, please see the attached decisions.

NMFS has begun an update of its regulations to ensure that the court-ordered boundaries are implemented for all fisheries. NMFS plans to have the revisions in place by March of 2016.