



Quinault Indian Nation

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Mr. Dave Ortmann
Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

March 5, 2010

Re: Quinault Whiting Fishery

Dear Chairman Ortmann,

The Quinault Indian Nation will not participate in the whiting fishery in 2010 but we continue our discussions with NOAA and other co-managers regarding the development of the treaty fishery for this species. To facilitate planning and orderly conduct of the whiting fishery, we will provide notice well in advance of our expected entry.

This past season, proposals to reallocate whiting catch allowances from treaty to non-treaty fisheries were brought to the Council for consideration. Such requests for reallocation should not be considered absent prior agreement of the affected tribes.

Quinault continues to assert that any treaty fishery allocation of whiting is accessible by all tribes absent agreement between them. NOAA Fisheries does not have authority to allocate fish to individual tribes as "set-asides" or "sub-quotas". It is up to tribes to determine how treaty fish will be allocated in the whiting fishery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Johnstone".

Ed Johnstone, Fisheries Policy Spokesperson
Quinault Indian Nation

c.c. Frank Lockhart; Eileen Cooney – NOAA Fisheries