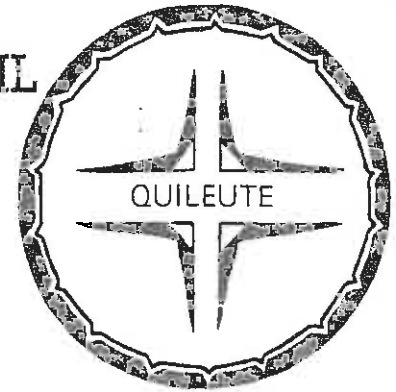


## QUILEUTE TRIBAL COUNCIL

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November 2013

**Re: Testimony Quileute Tribe on Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 6, Proposal to remove Restrictions on the Pacific Fisheries Management Council Tribal Seat**

The Quileute Tribe appreciates Dr. Mc Isaac's October 11, 2013 communication to our tribal chair and other "West Coast Tribes" regarding the changes proposed by the Makah Tribe to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) at the September PFMC meeting in Boise, Idaho. For a variety of reasons, we do not support the Makah's proposal at this time. In general, however, we do not support a system in which one tribal sovereign is designated to speak for several other sovereign governments; we instead support a system that will provide for multiple tribal input and rotation of representatives.

We do appreciate this opportunity to have dialogue on the tribal seat issue, to clarify our view of the challenges that are created by having only one "tribal" seat occupied by one individual on the PFMC. As PFMC is aware, the federal waters along the Washington coast are unique in that there are four treaty tribes (Hoh, Makah, Quileute Tribes and the Quinault Indian Nation) whose treaty fishing grounds are included therein. As the tribal seat exists currently, it lumps four separate sovereign nations together. This system does not provide for each sovereign to express its own unique concerns and perspectives regarding fishery issues before the PFMC for discussion or action.

As PFMC technical processes have evolved through the years to accommodate changing resource knowledge and the nature of fisheries, so should the structure of representation. Each sovereign tribe has a unique location as well as unique legal standing and perspective to offer to PFMC processes; however, the current structure does not accommodate for this complexity. We have observed how the federal and state seats typically allow for rotation of their individual representatives at the Council table and that the representative's selection is often dictated by area of expertise. Perhaps an easy solution to the current dilemma is to articulate that the tribal seat will function similarly to the federal and state seats.

We suggest that PFMC create a process inclusive of the affected treaty tribes and our federal trustees, to discuss a more equitable tribal representation in the PFMC forums (Council and Advisory Committees). We hope at this Costa Mesa meeting to collaboratively begin such a process.