



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bldg. 1
Seattle, Washington 98115

November 4, 2014

Mr. Stanley M. Speaks, Regional Director
Northwest Regional Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4169

Ms. Amy Dutschke, Regional Director
Pacific Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

Dear Mr. Speaks and Ms. Dutschke:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is one of eight Regional Fishery Management Councils authorized under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA, PL94-265). The PFMC is responsible for developing fishery management plans for species within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington. The plans are submitted for review by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and approved by the Secretary of the Department of Commerce (Secretary).

One seat on the PFMC is held exclusively by a representative of an Indian tribe from California, Oregon, Washington, or Idaho having federally recognized fishing rights on species affected by PFMC management plans. Representatives are appointed by the Secretary. The current tribal representative's term expires in early in 2015. That representative has served the maximum three terms and is not eligible under the statute for re-appointment.

Federal regulations at 50 CFR 600.215(b)(2) state that the Secretary will consult with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to determine which "tribes may submit nominations" of individuals for the tribal seat. Consistent with the MSA and these regulations, I request from you a list of qualifying tribes by November 30, 2014. On behalf of the Secretary, NMFS will notify these tribes of their opportunity to nominate individuals for appointment to the PFMC. It is our intent to allow the Secretary to consider nominations and select the representative prior to the PFMC's March 2015 meeting in order to ensure continuous representation of the tribes from Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho on the PFMC.

Please contact Gary Sims (gary.sims@noaa.gov or 503.780.9779), Tribal Liaison, NMFS West Coast Region (WCR), if you have any questions or need further information. Please address your response to Gary at the above address. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William W. Stelle, Jr.".

William W. Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator

cc: Gary Sims
Bob Turner, Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS WCR

