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Via Telefax

June 14, 2002

Bob Lohn
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

Re: Treaty Indian Groundfish Fisheries in 2003

Dear Mr. Lohn:

We have been asked to write to you on behalf of the Makah Indian Tribe. Pursuant to 50 C.F.R. § 660.324(d), the Makah Tribe requests that provision be made for harvest of groundfish by Pacific coast treaty Indian tribes in 2003 by continuing the treaty regulations and allocations in effect in 2002, with adjustments to reflect changes in Optimum Yields as determined by the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service for 2003. The Tribe has initiated discussions with other Pacific coast treaty Indian tribes regarding conservation measures for yelloweye, canary and bocaccio rockfish. Of these species, only yelloweye and canary rockfish are harvested to any material extent in treaty Indian fisheries. The Makah Tribe is exploring the possibility of an earlier opening for the treaty Indian halibut fishery to reduce yelloweye impacts, should that prove necessary.

In addition, please take notice that the Makah Tribe intends to open a treaty fishery for coastal pelagic species, focusing on sardines, in its usual and accustomed grounds in 2003. The Tribe does not believe that separate treaty regulations or an allocation are necessary to accommodate this fishery at this time. Should this change, the Tribe will notify you.

Tribal representatives will attend the Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting next week and can respond to questions you or your staff may have regarding the Tribe's planned 2003 fisheries.

Bob Lohn
June 14, 2002
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Very truly yours,

ZIONTZ, CHESTNUT, VARNELL,
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Marc Slonim

Marc D. Slonim

cc: Eileen Cooney
Russ Svec
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