

Mr. Chairman,

The tribes are concerned that the alternatives developed for analysis by the Ad Hoc EFH EIS Oversight Committee currently include no mention of treaty fishing rights, and many would in fact directly conflict with the exercise of treaty rights. It is important that NOAA meet its obligations to consult with the WA coastal treaty tribes, both in designating EFH and HAPC within their U&As, and to work with the tribes to design measures to minimize fishing impacts to designated areas. We look forward to working with Northwest Region Staff to develop appropriate alternatives.