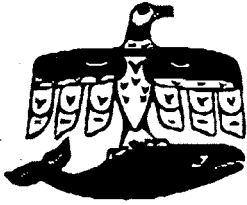


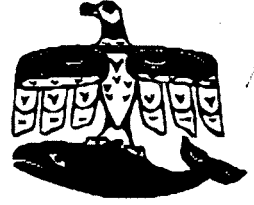
10/27/2005 THU 11:10 FAX 1 360 645 2323 Makah Fisheries Mngt.

002/003



## MAKAH TRIBE

P.O. BOX 115 • NEAH BAY, WA 98357 • 360-645-2201



IN REPLY REFER TO:

Dr. Steve Freese  
Acting Regional Administrator, NW Region  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
7600 Sand Point Way,  
Seattle, WA 98114

October 27, 2005

Dear Dr. Freese,

I am writing to inform you of groundfish management measures for the Makah Tribe for 2006 and 2007/2008 fisheries, that we will be presenting to Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) next week. In addition, I am updating you on our plans for the sardine fishery in 2006.

### **Sardines – 2006**

For sardines, the Makah Tribe plans to have possibly two vessels participating in the fishery in 2006. We are not seeking a specific treaty allocation for 2006, so Makah vessels will fish under the coastwide allocation plan and season established by the Council. We will work closely with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in management of this fishery but will not be subject to any specific restrictions that WDFW has in place for the non-tribal fishery. As with other fisheries, we will work closely with state and federal agencies including observing, monitoring and reporting the catch.

### **Groundfish 2006**

For groundfish we are proposing slight modifications for Pacific cod and thorney head rockfish (short/long spine thorney head). Pacific cod management for 2006 should include a specific tribal harvest guideline of 350-400 m.t. We believe this represents an equal treaty/non-treaty sharing of the Pacific cod in the north Washington coast fishery.

Thorneyhead rockfish are currently subject to a trip limit of 300 pounds for tribal fisheries. We want to eliminate the 300-pound trip limit and apply the limited entry trawl cumulative trip limit to Makah vessels.


Additionally, we plan to have one or two Makah vessels participating in the dogfish fishery in 2006 and intend to manage this fishery with the trip limits or other measures established by the Council.

**Groundfish – 2007/08**

Management measures for 2007/08 fisheries should include the above modifications proposed for 2006 in addition to a change in the arrowtooth (and possibly other flatfish) trip limits for Makah trawlers. We have limited the harvest of arrowtooth and other flatfish species in previous years due to bycatch concerns. The tribe is now conducting gear tests to reduce bycatch in this developing fishery. To assist in this effort we propose combining the limited entry trawl cumulative trip limits for the Makah vessels (as we did in past years with yellowtail rockfish) and apportioning the harvest throughout the year to meet the needs of our gear tests and time/area management to reduce bycatch. As with yellowtail rockfish, Makah harvest of arrowtooth would not exceed the combined cumulative trip limits for the fleet.

We will be available to discuss these measures at the Council meeting in San Diego next week.

Sincerely,



Russ Svec  
Fishery Manager