



Quinault Indian Nation

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June 12, 2008

Donald K. Hansen
Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Re: Quinault participation in whiting fishery

Dear Mr. Hansen,

The Quinault Indian Nation anticipates that it will begin to participate in the whiting fishery in 2010. We will keep the PFMC, NOAA-NMFS, and the other coastal tribes apprised of more definitive information regarding anticipated fleet structure and harvest levels as our plans develop. We request that the PFMC anticipate and provide for our entry into this fishery when it establishes the overall tribal catch allowance for whiting and incidental impacts on depleted rockfish species.

Discussions have been initiated with NOAA-NMFS and the four coastal tribes with usual and accustomed fishing areas off the coast of Washington to develop a management plan that ensures orderly conduct of the treaty whiting fishery. It is our intent to work in concert with the other tribes to craft a plan that ensures adequate monitoring, timely reporting, and minimization of impacts on depleted rockfish species while providing sufficient flexibility and guidance to enable each participating tribe to meet its management objectives and needs.

We are well aware of concerns regarding by-catch of depleted rockfish species during the whiting fishery. We have analyzed data from the NW Science Center to help us assess potential impacts of a future Quinault fishery on these species. When the Quinault Nation decides to participate in the whiting fishery, it will do so with a proven record of responsible and accountable fishery management as a self-regulatory tribe, a designation recognized by the federal court over three decades ago.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Johnstone".

Ed Johnstone
Fisheries Policy Representative

cc: Donald McIssac, Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Frank Lockhart, NOAA Fisheries
Eileen Cooney, NOAA Fisheries