

ZIONTZ CHESTNUT
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Agenda Item I.9.a
Supplemental Tribal Report
November 2015

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Via Email and First Class Mail

November 10, 2015

William W. Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

Re: Makah Treaty Groundfish Fisheries in 2017-2018

Dear Mr. Stelle:

We have been asked to write to you on behalf of the Makah Indian Tribe. Pursuant to 50 C.F.R. § 660.324(d), please be advised that the Tribe intends to continue all of its existing groundfish fisheries in 2017 and 2018, and requests that, except as noted below, all existing treaty groundfish regulations and allocations be continued.

The Tribe anticipates that it will have four or five catcher boats participating in the Pacific whiting fishery in 2017 and 2018 and requests an allocation of 17.5 percent of the U.S. Total Allowable Catch for its fishery in each year.

The Tribe requests an increase in the tribal set asides for widow rockfish and canary rockfish in 2017 and 2018. Tribal groundfish fisheries have been constrained by widow and canary rockfish as these overfished species were rebuilding. Landings of widow rockfish have been limited to no more than 10 percent of the weight of yellowtail landed by a given vessel throughout the year. Yellowtail trips are frequently limited due to over-attainment of widow rockfish. The Tribe requests an increase in the annual tribal set aside of widow rockfish (currently 100 metric tons) to 200 metric tons for 2017 and 2018. This amount would provide for increased harvest opportunity in the directed yellowtail rockfish fishery and allow for bycatch of widow rockfish in other tribal fisheries.

The Tribe has not yet determined the amount of the increase it will request for canary rockfish. Makah representatives will confer with your staff and the other coastal tribes to determine that amount prior to the June 2016 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting.

Makah representatives will be available to discuss any questions you or your staff may

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have regarding these matters at the upcoming Council meetings.

Sincerely,

ZIONTZ & CHESTNUT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc D. Slonim". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Marc D. Slonim

cc (via email only):

Frank Lockhart
Kevin Duffy
Russ Svec
Steve Joner