



Quinault Indian Nation

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Mr. Will Stelle
Regional Administrator
West Coast Region, NMFS
7600 Sand Point Way NE, BIN C15700
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

February 25, 2016

Dear Mr. Stelle,

Per Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 660, the Quinault Indian Nation intends to again exercise its treaty right to enter into the Pacific Sardine fishery for the 2016-2017 fishing year.

§ 660.518 Pacific Coast Treaty Indian Rights.

(a) Pacific Coast treaty Indian tribes have treaty rights to harvest CPS in their usual and accustomed fishing areas in U.S. waters.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "Pacific Coast treaty Indian tribes" and their "usual and accustomed fishing areas" are described at §660.324(b) and (c).

(c) Boundaries of a tribe's fishing area may be revised as ordered by a Federal court.

(d) *Procedures.* The rights referred to in paragraph (a) of this section will be implemented in accordance with the procedures and requirements of the framework contained in Amendment 9 to the FMP and in this Subpart.

(1) The Secretary, after consideration of the tribal request, the recommendation of the Council, and the comments of the public, will implement Indian fishing rights.

(2) The rights will be implemented either through an allocation of fish that will be managed by the tribes or through regulations that will apply specifically to the tribal fisheries.

(3) An allocation or a regulation specific to the tribes shall be initiated by a written request from a Pacific Coast treaty Indian tribe to the NMFS Southwest Regional Administrator at least 120 days prior to the start of the fishing season as specified at §660.510 and will be subject to public review according to the procedures in §660.508(d).

(4) The Regional Administrator will announce the annual tribal allocation at the same time as the annual specifications.

(e) The Secretary recognizes the sovereign status and co-manager role of Indian tribes over shared Federal and tribal fishery resources. Accordingly, the Secretary will develop tribal allocations and regulations in consultation with the affected tribe(s) and, insofar as possible, with tribal consensus. [66 FR 44987, Aug. 27, 2001]

Quinault Indian Nation seeks 800 metric tons of Pacific Sardines to meet the needs of our fishers. This does not set precedent for determination of our treaty share of Pacific Sardines in the Quinault Indian Nation's Usual and Accustomed (U&A) marine fishing area which we believe to be 50% of the harvestable tonnage of fish available in any given year in our U&A area.

The Quinault Department of Fisheries will regulate our fishery and we look forward to working with NMFS to facilitate our participation in the Sardine fishery in an orderly manner consistent with PFMC and NMFS management. We thank you for your assistance and stand ready to answer any questions you may have. Please contact me directly if you need further information at (360)276-8215 ext. 368.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Johnstone". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ed Johnstone,
Quinault Fisheries Policy Spokesperson

c.c. Dorothy Lowman, Chair, Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Jim Unsworth, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Frank Lockhart, Program Director, NOAA Fisheries
Judson Feder, Regional Counsel, NOAA Fisheries