



# MAKAH TRIBE

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## TRIBAL STATEMENT ON FINAL ACTION ON STOCK ASSESSMENT PLANS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

One of the treaty small footrope bottom trawl fisheries' primary target is Pacific cod which has never been assessed through the council process. Over the last 10 years, the tribal harvest of Pacific cod has averaged 258.9 mt annually and is the second highest attained species within the bottom trawl fishery. Currently, the tribes have an annual set aside of 500 mt of Pacific cod within this biennium and have attained this level of catch in the past.

The Makah Tribe is in the process of pursuing MSC certification for 19 species that are landed within the bottom trawl fishery, Pacific cod is one of these species. A species that has not been assessed can still get MSC certified, but it is harder to show sustainable management for a species if there is no formal understanding of the stock status. In turn, even though the harvest of Pacific cod is significantly less than harvest had been during the pre-RCA era and Pacific cod harvest has never exceeded the harvest policy of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, this species would be arbitrarily scored lower than other assessed species due to the uncertainty of the stock status.

**The Makah Tribe recommends that if the Pacific cod stock is not assessed in 2019 that it is a priority species to be assessed in 2021.**

### Treaty Pacific Cod Harvest

Year	Harvest (mt)
2008	26.5
2009	147.2
2010	245.8
2011	326.0
2012	224.5
2013	312.3
2014	270.3
2015	503.4
2016	256.4
2017	276.6