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The Tulalip Tribes are federally recognized successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and other allied tribes and bands signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott

Re. Support of Alternative II of the Snohomish Natural Coho Rebuilding Plan

Dear Director Tracy,

09/09/2019

Tulalip Tribes has actively collaborated with the Salmon Technical Staff (STT) throughout the preparation of this plan, and it reiterates here the support for Alternative II, which would allow additional coho spawners to return to the Snohomish System until the rebuilt status for Snohomish coho is achieved.

Since the collapse of various natural coho populations in North Puget Sound (Snohomish, Stillaguamish, and Skagit) in 2015, Tulalip has reduced the impacts on natural coho by:

- i) Not pursuing a coho commercial fishery in terminal waters during 2016,
- ii) Having a modest terminal fisheries in 2017 with significant area/times closures in terminal area fishing grounds in 8A,
- iii) By adjusting the potential pre-season forecast error in the 2018 return (we adopted the conservative lower 95% confidence interval – effectively reducing the forecast by one half),
- iv) By implementing an early in-season closure of the terminal Treaty 8A fishery (not fishing during the second half of the season), when fisheries performance, and in-season updates to the run-size indicated potentially poorer returns than anticipated.

During the ongoing 2019 8A Coho Tulalip fishery , the tribe will be tracking closely the performance of the fishery, with the commitment of implementing prompt in-season management actions (reduction of effort, even an early closure of the fishery as done in 2018) if there are indications of a weaker run. Co-managers will be discussing weekly the status of the run, and adjusting fisheries as necessary.

Best regards,
Jason Gobin -- Fisheries Director