



# The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Colville Business Council  
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March 3, 2020

Agenda Item B.1.a

Supplemental Tribal Report 1

March 2020

Phil Anderson, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The purpose of this letter is to express the view and preferences of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) for the 2020 North of Falcon fishery.

The CTCR includes 12 tribes with approximately 10,000 enrolled Tribal members. The Colville Reservation is located at the terminus of anadromous salmon migration on the Columbia River in north central Washington. Our waters include both healthy runs of summer-fall Chinook and sockeye salmon as well as ESA-listed stocks of spring Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. The CTCR are a salmon people and historically our ancestors fished at many sites throughout the Columbia Basin, including the extremely productive Kettle Falls fishery. Due to over-harvest by commercial fisheries in the late 1800's, habitat destruction by European settlers, and hydroelectric system development in the Columbia River Basin, including but not limited to the construction of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams, the salmon runs that used to support our subsistence and cultural needs were nearly lost and are currently a fraction of what they were. Current CTCR fisheries are constructed to a very limited area in the Icicle River within the Wenatchee River Basin, at the Tailrace of the Chief Joseph Dam, and in the Okanogan River. Although the runs of Summer Chinook and sockeye have improved in recent years, the cultural and subsistence needs of the CTCR are not met. We do not have a commercial salmon harvest because the basic ceremony and subsistence needs are not fulfilled by contemporary salmon runs.

With low run sizes, such as 2018, 2019, and those predicted for 2020, the practice of taking ocean harvest 'off the top' of the non-treaty share leaves very few fish for sport and tribal fishermen upstream of PRD and is therefore not consistent with the intent of Chapter II.A of the harvest sharing agreement. In many years we have forgone portions of our harvest allocation to achieve hatchery and wild population objectives because we recognize the importance of preserving salmon for future generations. The CTCR strongly believes it is not fair for so much of the conservation to fall onto the terminal fishermen.

The importance of salmon to the CTCR cannot be overstated. Salmon fisheries play a central role in the lives of the Tribes, forming a key part of our religion, culture, history, and identity. For this reason, the CTCR have consistently requested coordination and cooperation with fish passage and reintroduction above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams. The Tribes are not alone in calling for restoration of anadromous salmon to currently blocked habitat in the Columbia River above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams, the National Congress of

American Indians and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians have also supported this position. The CTCR supports the phased approach set out in the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program which includes appropriate studies to determine feasibility.

The CTCR fishery is not for economic or sport interests, but instead to perpetuate and sustain our culture, religion, and health. The CTCR operates a hatchery that can produce approximately three million (3,000,000) fish when operating at full capacity. While we are rebuilding threatened salmon species we are potentially being punished for the over-fishing of others.

Although the CTCR is relatively new to this forum, because of its legal and political efforts to rebuild salmon populations through hatchery supplementation, habitat improvements, and pushing for the reintroduction of salmon to the blocked areas, there have been improvements to the populations in the mainstem Columbia and the Okanogan river. We appreciate the opportunity to address this body about an issue that is critically important to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rodney Cawston".

Rodney Cawston, Chair  
Colville Business Council

Encls: Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Resolution #16-07  
National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-19-082



## **2016 Winter Convention Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort**

### **RESOLUTION #16 – 07**

#### **“SUPPORT OF WASHINGTON STATE BILL NO. HJM 4014: CONCERNING THE REINTRODUCTION OF SALMON AND STEELHEAD ABOVE BLOCKED AREAS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER”**

#### **PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 28, 2016, the State of Washington’s 64th Legislature introduced House Joint Memorial (“HJM”) 4014, attached hereto, which urges the federal government and the region to pursue the reintroduction of salmon and steelhead above the Chief Joseph and

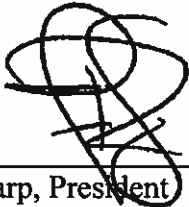
Grand Coulee dams through a pragmatic and science-based approach that can lead to fish passage and reintroduction in the upper reaches of the Columbia river system, which is currently blocked by those named dams; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI hereby supports this effort by the State of Washington to prompt the reintroduction of salmon and steelhead above the Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams so that these fish can return to their traditional habitats in the upper reaches of the Columbia river system, which is also home to several ATNI member tribes who have used these same waters and salmon and steelhead since time immemorial; and

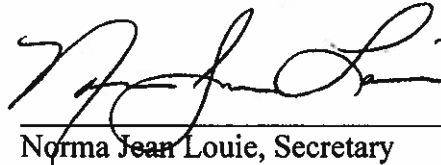
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that ATNI recognizes that this may be a small step in reintroducing salmon and steelhead into the upper Columbia river system, accordingly, ATNI hereby urges the federal government, who operate the Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams, to promptly take meaningful action to spur fish passage over those named dams that currently block all salmon and steelhead migration to and from the upper Columbia river system for the benefit of all.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2016 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort, Suquamish, Washington on February 1- 4, 2016, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians  
Resolution #ABQ-19-082

**TITLE: Support for Inclusion of Fish Passage Considerations in the Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement Analysis**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**PRESIDENT**

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*Quinault Indian Nation*

**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**

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*Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians*

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*Kenai'tze Indian Tribe*

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*Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*

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*Wyandotte Nation*

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*Ponca Tribe of Nebraska*

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*Seneca Nation of Indians*

**NORTHWEST**

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*Suquamish Tribe*

**PACIFIC**

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*Cahuilla Band of Indians*

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN**

MARK POLLOCK  
*Blackfeet Nation*

**SOUTHEAST**

Nancy Carnley  
*Ma-Chis Lower Creek Indian Tribe of Alabama*

**SOUTHERN PLAINS**

Robert Tippeconnie  
*Comanche Nation*

**SOUTHWEST**

Vacant

**WESTERN**

Alan Mandell  
*Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

KEVIN ALLIS  
*Forest County Potawatomi Community*

**NCAI HEADQUARTERS**

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**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States District Court for the District of Oregon held that the Biological Opinion (BiOp) prepared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) was legally inadequate in 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the Court ordered the Federal Action agencies (Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation) to prepare a new BiOp and to prepare for the first time an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); and

**WHEREAS**, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation is a confederation of twelve tribes with approximately 9500 members, and two of its reservation boundaries are the Columbia River; and

**WHEREAS**, salmon and other anadromous fish are an important part of the religion, culture and subsistence of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, as well as many other tribal nations of the Northwest and Alaska, which have been working with other entities to study the feasibility of passage for chinook and sockeye salmon over the Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams, both of which are located on the Colville Reservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Action agencies are not considering fish passage as an alternative in the EIS process, although this has been requested by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, other tribes and entities and would address the greatest single impact to Columbia Basin salmon from the FCRPS; and

**WHEREAS**, there is an emergent need to submit any comments, since the EIS NEPA Overview Process published by the Columbia River System Operations targets issuance of the Draft EIS in Fall 2019 – Spring 2020.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) hereby supports the request of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation – and the request of other affected tribal nations with their consent – that the Federal Action agencies include fish passage over Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams within the selected alternative in the Columbia River System Operations EIS process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NCAI fully supports the protection of all federally recognized treaty and indigenous resource rights and that the federal government take appropriate actions with respect to all hydroelectric facilities in the nation; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2019 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, October 20-25, 2019, with a quorum present.



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Fawn Sharp, President

**ATTEST:**

  
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Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary