



The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Colville Business Council
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April 9, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The importance of salmon to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) and the Upper Columbia region cannot be overstated. The CTCR have participated in many salmon recovery forums, are actively engaged in salmon restoration actions and have commented in a variety of venues about the importance of the fisheries, and how they occupy a central role in the lives of the Tribal members. Salmon fisheries also form a key part of regional culture, history, and identity, and provide tremendous economic benefits. We are relatively new to this forum, and appreciate the opportunity to participate and work with other co-managers to shape the allocation of this resource which is critical to the well-being of the CTCR.

As you know, the 2020 forecast for Upper Columbia River (UCR) summer Chinook is amongst the worst in the last twenty years. We understand that the low run size for Chinook is affecting most stocks in the Pacific Northwest and everyone who fishes will be making sacrifices during the lean years that follow poor environmental conditions. 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 1800s, 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 supported the Tribes' subsistence and cultural needs were nearly lost and are now a fraction of what they were. The Colville Tribes will continue to be an active participant in projects that generate more salmon for all fishermen and for ecosystem benefits. We have made sacrifices in near-term harvest opportunity to ensure more salmon reach the spawning grounds and benefit future generations.

The CTCR wishes to thank the other co-managers and members of the Salmon Advisory subcommittee for their willingness to work with the CTCR toward common goals and taking the CTCR's views and concerns into consideration. This was a tough year as we worked to come together and make these important decisions without meeting face to face, but in a way that still allowed for meaningful discussion and coordination. We appreciated the way that the PFMC and your excellent staff handled the webinar meetings given the situation with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The PFMC process for 2020 resulted in an allocation for the CTCR that will not meet its subsistence needs, sharing approximately 1,600 Summer Chinook between 10,000 CTCR tribal members will be difficult to say the least. However, we understand that in these challenging times, tough decisions and sacrifices must be made. We appreciated the opportunity to

participate and to provide both written and oral comments during the 2020 PFMC process and look forward to future discussions in this forum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Cawston", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rodney Cawston, Chair
Colville Business Council