



HOH INDIAN TRIBE

P.O. Box 2196
Forks WA 98331
PH: (360) 374-6582 • FAX: (360) 374-5426

Dawn Gomez - Chairwoman
Melvinjohn Ashue - Vice Chairman
Tahnee Hudson - Secretary
Rosetta Hernandez - Treasurer
Derek Benally - Member
Enrrrique Barragan - Member
Walter Ward-Bos V - Member

Bob Smith - Executive Director

June 10, 2020

The Hoh Tribe is opposed to creating a low abundance Chinook threshold for ocean fisheries. We feel that there isn't enough scientific evidence to show a correlation between Chinook abundance and Southern Resident Killer Whales survival. Some of the largest years for Chinook numbers have also seen a decrease in Southern Resident Killer Whale recruitment. We also believe that the system already in place to limit Chinook and other salmon harvest during low salmon abundance estimates is accomplishing the task that this proposed low abundance Chinook threshold is trying to accomplish.

The PFMC Southern Resident Killer Whale risk assessment paper leaves many questions on how to manage the Southern Resident Killer Whale population. The majority of research on Southern Resident Killer Whales has occurred outside of the areas proposed for creating a low abundance Chinook threshold. There isn't enough data on where Southern Resident Killer Whales are during the year and if Chinook salmon is their main feed source in areas inhabited by the Southern Resident Killer Whales.

The Hoh Tribe believes that there should be further and updated research on how salmon and other non-fisheries impacts influence Southern Resident Killer Whale success before making recommendations.

Sincerely,

Dawn Gomez,

Chairwoman
Hoh Tribal Council