

DRAFT LETTER OF GENERAL SUPPORT FOR INVESTIGATING SALMON
REINTRODUCTION TO THE UPPER COLUMBIA BASIN

To: Mr. Rodney Cawston,
Chair of the Business Council for The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
From: Chuck Tracy
Executive Director of the Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dear Mr. Cawston

The Pacific Fishery Management Council would like to thank you for your presentation to the Council in November 2020 and to our advisory bodies in the past. We appreciate the work that the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation have done with the Upper Columbia United Tribes and other key partners in developing a feasibility study using a phased approach to investigate the concept of reintroducing salmon to the upper Columbia Basin.

As you know, the Council is one of eight Regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Magnuson--Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) of 1976, and recommends management actions for Federal fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California. The Council represents the interests of the Federal government, tribal governments, state governments, sport and commercial salmon fishing communities, and the public that depend on our management actions, including our duties under the MSA's essential fish habitat provisions to take action to conserve freshwater habitat for the salmon runs of the west coast.

The Council recognizes that the Columbia basin incorporates multiple tribes, states, and federal jurisdictions, and that a range of activities related to salmon restoration and management are taking place in this large region. A project such as this is one component in a much larger effort to promote healthy salmon runs and viable habitat in the Columbia Basin. The Council also recognizes that the broad stakeholder community represented in the Columbia Basin Partnership report supports reintroduction of salmon in the upper Columbia Basin. The implications of, and perspectives on, such projects vary and should be fully understood prior to implementation.

We look forward to learning more about the progress of the study, and generally support these types of investigations that help inform the process of rebuilding and restoring salmon stocks and habitat in the Pacific Northwest.

Sincerely,

Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council