



The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Colville Business Council
P.O. Box 150, Nespelem, WA 99155

(509) 634-2200
FAX: (509) 634-4116

April 13, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Gorelnik:

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.

CTCR includes 12 tribes and approximately 10,000 enrolled members. The 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 salmon runs that used to support our subsistence and cultural needs were nearly lost and are currently a fraction of what they were, due in part to the construction and operation of the Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams. The hatchery operations from Chief Joseph Hatchery produce approximately three million (3,000,000) chinook for the system when at full production.

We appreciate the time PFMC granted to CTCR and our UCUT partners to speak with you about fish passage. We also appreciate the Council's support for continued studies in the upper Columbia. Current fisheries for CTCR are constricted to a very limited area in the Icicle River within the Wenatchee River Basin, at the tailrace of Chief Joseph Dam, and in the Okanogan River. Summer Chinook and sockeye salmon comprise the majority of our harvest and in recent years our harvest has improved from a few hundred fish to a few thousand fish each year for our Tribal membership. We have been participating in your advisory body meetings and tracking the 2021 PFMC process and the resulting CTCR harvest allocation for summer Chinook. With a relatively healthy Upper Columbia Summer Chinook run forecast for 2021, we are looking forward to a good fishing season, at least by recent standards. However, this still does not meet the cultural or subsistence needs of the CTCR. We do not have a commercial salmon harvest because the basic ceremony and subsistence needs of our Tribes are not fulfilled by contemporary salmon runs. Although some of the salmon runs this year are better than they have been in the last few years, more work needs to be done and we look forward to continuing to work with you to achieve our common goals of increasing the Columbia River salmon runs.

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 CTCR appreciates the opportunity to provide our perspective to the PFMC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Cawston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rodney Cawston, Chair
Colville Business Council