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*Via Email and First Class Mail*

November 10, 2021

Barry Thom  
West Coast Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1201 Northeast Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100  
Portland, OR 97232

*Re: Makah Treaty Groundfish Fisheries in 2023-2024*

Dear Mr. Thom:

We have been asked to write to you on behalf of the Makah Indian Tribe. Pursuant to 50 C.F.R. § 660.50(d), please be advised that the Tribe intends to continue all its existing groundfish fisheries in 2023 and 2024 and requests that, except as noted below, all existing treaty groundfish regulations, allocations and set asides be continued.

The Tribe anticipates that it will have three or four catcher boats participating in the Pacific whiting fishery in 2023 and 2024 and requests an allocation of 17.5 percent of the U.S. Total Allowable Catch for its fishery in each year.

The Tribe requests an increase in the tribal set aside for Pacific Ocean Perch (POP) from 9.2 metric tons (mt) to 130 mt in 2023 and 2024. The Tribe harvests POP in the bottom trawl fishery, and Makah trawlers have encountered more POP in recent years. With the reclassification of POP to rebuilt status in 2017, the coastwide OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs for this species increased substantially, leading to a growth in market demand. For example, 2019 saw the highest POP landing levels in the past 20 years. We anticipate that demand is still present even though the 2019 landing level was difficult to maintain during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both Makah trawlers and their buyers desire to increase harvest of POP to participate in this developing market. The current tribal set aside of 9.2 mt would be quickly exhausted with the anticipated increase in effort. The requested increase in tribal set aside would avoid this problem and still amount to only 3.37% of the coastwide ACL.

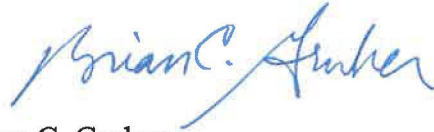
Makah representatives will be available to discuss any questions you or your staff may have regarding these matters at the upcoming Council meetings.

Barry Thom  
November 10, 2021  
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Sincerely yours,

ZIONTZ CHESTNUT



Brian C. Gruber  
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