



The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Colville Business Council
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6 April <day>, 2022

Agenda Item D.2.e
Supplemental Tribal Report 1
April 2022

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

Dear Pacific Fisheries Management Council:

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Colville Tribes) includes 12 Tribes and approximately 10,000 enrolled members. We have federally recognized and protected fishing rights to fisheries that are impacted by the management of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). These rights are protected by federal executive order and statute. They were affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court and the federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals (depending on the fishery). Every year the Colville Tribes receives a specific allocation of salmon from the fisheries managed by the PFMC, and thus clearly have an acknowledged protectable interest in this process.

In November 2021 and March 2022 the PFMC failed to appoint a Colville Tribes staff member to your Habitat Committee and we have not received any correspondence from the PFMC regarding this matter. We have reviewed the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the PFMC Operating Procedures and see nothing that should prevent the Colville Tribes from participating on your advisory boards and committees. That there is now a push to deny the Colville Tribes the right to fully participate in the PFMC processes (as protected by federal statute and the PFMC operating procedures) is disappointing and disheartening. We are aware that this issue will be discussed at the June 2022 meeting and look forward to discussing this matter further.

Salmon are extremely important to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for its culture, spiritual needs, and subsistence. The Colville Tribes 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 salmon occupy a central role in the lives of the Tribes and Tribal members. The hatchery operations from Chief Joseph Hatchery produce approximately three million (3,000,000) chinook for the system when at full production, and many of these fish are intercepted in the PFMC fisheries each year.

The Colville 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 number of fish available to all of the groups and individuals who use this resource needs to be increased. One

way to do this is to increase the amount of habitat available for spawning by expanding fish distribution into currently blocked areas. In the past we have presented information about salmon reintroduction to the blocked area upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams to your Council, the Salmon Advisory Subpanel, and the Habitat Committee. We appreciated the time PFMC granted to CTCR to speak with you about our Phase 1 planning work on fish passage in 2020 and 2021. We would like to update the PFMC on the progress we have made with developing an implementation plan for Phase 2, as well as some exciting results from our cultural releases in the blocked area. We hope that the PFMC can find some time at one of your meetings later this year to hear about our progress on this important project.

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. However, this still does not meet the cultural or subsistence needs of the Colville Tribes. We do not have a commercial salmon harvest because the basic ceremonial and subsistence needs of our Tribes are not fulfilled by contemporary salmon runs. The low returns of spring Chinook in 2021 limited the opening of a fishery on our reservation and the forecast for spring Chinook upstream of Wells Dam in 2022 is not much better. When there is little to no harvest of Spring Chinook for the CTCR it is a critical impairment to our ceremonies and subsistence. The lack of spring Chinook also elevates the importance of summer Chinook to our people.

The management alternatives from the March 2022 PFMC meetings resulted in a harvest allocation of approximately 3,100 summer Chinook for the Colville Tribes. Three thousand fish is not enough to meet the basic ceremonial and subsistence needs of our 10,000 members. Additionally, actual run sizes are often less than pre-season forecasts and the fishermen in the river bear all of the burden of restraint when fewer fish show up than anticipated. Therefore, we urge you to adopt ocean harvest Alternative III, thereby taking a risk averse management strategy.

The Colville Tribes wishes to thank the other co-managers and members of the Salmon Advisory Subcommittee for their willingness to work with the Tribes toward common goals and taking the Tribes' views and concerns into consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to continue participating fully in the PFMC processes to protect the Tribes' federally recognized and protected rights, but also to improve the stocks for all users in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy C. Joseph Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andy Joseph, Chair
Colville Business Council