



The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation  
Colville Business Council  
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Agenda Item D.3.e  
Supplemental Tribal Report 1  
March 2023

March 5, 2023

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. As one of the many tribes who have federally recognized fishing rights for runs managed by PFMC under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the CTCR has participated in this forum for the last several years. The CTCR participates in many salmon recovery forums, are actively engaged in salmon restoration actions and have commented in a variety of venues due to the importance of the fisheries, and how they occupy a central role in the lives of the Tribal members. Salmon fisheries 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.

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 CTCR. As you know, CTCR is working with many tribal, state and federal partners to restore salmon to the once productive habitat upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. This project will increase harvest opportunities from Southeast Alaska all the way to the Spokane River and the transboundary Columbia. Perhaps more importantly it will begin to restore ecosystem function and providing cultural, social and ecological benefits throughout the Columbia River. We have spoken to you about this project in the past and we appreciate Council's support for continued studies in the upper Columbia. We intend to update your Habitat Committee and Salmon Advisory Subpanel during the upcoming meetings about the recent progress we have made on this project, and we would be happy to speak directly with the Council about our progress when the time is right.

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 the run forecast this year is above the recent average, more work needs to be done to continue this improvement. 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. Therefore, we urge you to be conservative in your approach to setting the salmon seasons for 2023.

The CTCR wishes to thank the other co-managers and members of the Salmon Advisory Subcommittee for their continued willingness to work with the CTCR toward common goals and taking the CTCR's views and concerns into consideration. The CTCR will continue to meaningfully participate in the PFMC process and look forward to continuing to work together towards our common goals.

The CTCR appreciates the opportunity to provide our perspective to the PFMC and look forward to continuing to work together with this body to ensure the fisheries for the future.

Sincerely,

 Jarred Michael-Erickson, Chairman  
Colville Business Council