



# Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

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June 20, 2024

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Governor of Washington  
P.O. Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504

Agenda Item C.1  
Attachment 1  
September 2024

Re: Offshore Wind Planning Process

Dear Governor Inslee:

I am writing on behalf of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) and our member tribes to express concerns regarding the current efforts to develop an offshore wind (OSW) planning process for Washington. Being on the frontlines of the impacts of climate change, we are acutely aware of the need to rapidly address climate change, but we must do so in a fashion that is equitable and does not impinge upon tribal treaty rights and treaty protected resources. NWIFC member tribes remain opposed to OSW development on the US West Coast until our concerns about the unknown impacts of OSW development on the marine environment and resources are addressed.

The NWIFC is composed of the 20 treaty tribes in western Washington with treaty-reserved, constitutionally-protected rights to harvest and manage various natural resources including salmon and shellfish throughout their usual and accustomed areas. As you are aware, *U.S. v Washington* affirmed those reserved rights as well as the tribes' role as co-managers with the State of Washington over those resources.

We commend your efforts to be proactive on the prospects of OSW in WA and the work that Gridworks has done in reaching out to stakeholders and drafting recommendations in a short period of time. However, we feel that this effort has not gone far enough to address tribal concerns, nor is it appropriate for a consultant to carry out work that should be conducted by the treaty tribes and the State of Washington as co-managers.

We are requesting that you honor your commitment to work closely with the tribes on OSW, and that you do so in a spirit of mutual respect and consensus that befits our collective roles as co-managers of Washington's marine resources. In light of these concerns, we respectfully request that your office work directly with the NWIFC and its member tribes to develop a process that works for both the tribes and the state. It should be noted that reaching out and ultimately working with you on this does not presuppose any support for OSW development in

Washington. Until such a process is in place, and all parties are in agreement to proceed, we further request that Washington not initiate any OSW development activities.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting of co-manager representatives, please contact Tommy Moore, NWIFC Oceanographer at (360) 640-5066 or [tmoore@nwifc.org](mailto:tmoore@nwifc.org).

Sincerely,



Ed Johnstone  
Chairman

cc: Carrie Sessions, Senior Policy Advisor for Environment & Water, Office of Governor Jay  
Inslee  
Craig Bill, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs  
NWIFC Commissioners