



The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Colville Business Council
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February 13, 2025

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

Agenda Item E.3.e
Supplemental Tribal Report 1
March 2025

Re: Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meeting March 2025

Dear Mr. Pettinger

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation ("Colville Tribes") is a confederacy of twelve (12) tribes whose traditional and aboriginal territory covers much of eastern Washington and extends into Canada. Like most tribes in the Northwest, the Colville Tribes are a salmon people, and the importance of salmon to our way of life cannot be overstated. The Tribes that make up the confederacy all have ceremonies, practices, and language for the salmon, regardless of which of the three language groups the tribe spoke.

The Colville Tribes' reservation is at the terminus of the anadromous salmon migration on the Columbia River in North Central Washington. We enjoy federally recognized and protected rights in fisheries managed by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council ("PFMC") on our reservation, adjacent to our reservation, and off reservation in our traditional, aboriginal, and ceded territories. The Colville Tribes have actively participated in the PFMC meetings for many years as a federally recognized Indian tribe with federally protected rights to the fishery. We rely on the salmon harvest and do not have a commercial fishery because the ceremony and subsistence needs of the Colville Tribes' and its members, are not being met. The Colville Tribes has approximately 9500 members, and the Chinook salmon harvest allocation in recent history has been well under one fish per member. This year's pre-season salmon run projections and the resulting harvest allocation for CTCR are not going to change this. It is extremely unfortunate that contemporary salmon runs do not adequately support the harvest needs of the tribes and the escapement needs of the fish populations.

The CTCR are doing our part with programs to improve habitat, raise hatchery fish, and expand the distribution of salmon to their historic production areas.

The Colville Tribes are actively working with the federal government, the state of Washington, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, and the Coeur D'Alene Tribe, The Upper Columbia United Tribes and many other partners to evaluate the feasibility of fish passage at e Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee and Spokane River dams. Restoring salmon to their historic habitat in the Upper Columbia will have profound effects on future salmon runs, river and ocean ecosystems and fishermen who intercept them along the way.

Given the low forecasts and salmon runs over the last several years, as well as the ongoing pressures the fisheries face, we urge you to be cautious when determining what the fishery management alternatives should be in 2025. Remember that fishermen in the terminal

fishing areas, such as the Upper Columbia, don't have the luxury of fishing on mixed stocks. When local rivers and hatcheries do not get the returns they need for escapement then the future of the fish stocks in those rivers also suffer. We recognize this resource is shared among a variety of stakeholders. The Colville Tribes are concerned about not only the current stakeholders, but also the future generations who share in this resource.

We appreciate your time and consideration, as well as the opportunity to provide the Colville Tribes' perspective. We look forward to participating in the PFMC process in March and April of 2025.

Sincerely,



Cindy Marchand, Chairperson of Fisheries and Natural Resources Committees
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation