



# The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Colville Business Council  
P.O. Box 150, Nespelem, WA 99155

(509) 634-2200  
FAX: (509) 634-4116



April 1, 2025

Agenda Item D.2.e

Supplemental Tribal Report 1  
April 2025

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

*Re: Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meeting April 2025, Tribal Report for Item D.2.*

Dear Mr. Pettinger and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council,

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 from Northeast Oregon well into Canada as seen in Attachment 1. Although the traditional territories Colville Tribes were expansive, the modern-day opportunities to catch salmon are limited. The Colville Tribes' reservation is at the terminus of the anadromous salmon migration on the Columbia River in North Central Washington. 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.

The Colville Tribes 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. We also produce millions of salmon smolts in our hatchery and millions more smolts come from the rivers on and near our reservation. Many of these returning salmon get caught in the PFMC ocean fisheries.

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. The Federal Government has a trust responsibility to the Colville Tribes, and we have a harvest agreement for the non-treaty share with the State of Washington. 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 tribal member. 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.

After review of the initial ocean fishing alternatives resulting from the PFMC meetings in March, we would like the Council to know that Alternative 1 results in harvest allocations of Upper Columbia Summer Chinook that are not acceptable to the Colville Tribes. The model run for Alternative 1 resulted in a harvest allocation for the Colville Tribes of only 768 fish, that would be about 1 fish for every 12 tribal members. Additionally, under Alternative 1 the non-

treaty ocean allocation is nearly 5 times higher than the allocation for the non-treaty fishermen in the Columbia River.

Alternative 1 would increase ocean harvest on the lowest forecasted run size of summer Chinook in the last 25 years. The estimated harvest of 5,712 summer Chinook in Alternative 1 is 11% higher than the final estimate of PFMC ocean fishery impact on this stock in 2024 coming out of the April 2024 PFMC meeting. This does not make sense in a year when the run size is forecasted to be 27% lower than 2024 pre-season forecast.

Under Alternatives 2 or 3, the balance between ocean and river non-treaty harvest is more reasonable and the harvest allocation for the Colville Tribes (~1500-1900 fish) would be more consistent with previous years with low run sizes. Additionally, reducing the ocean harvest of Upper Columbia summer Chinook will directly result in more natural-origin summer Chinook on the spawning grounds and in the hatchery brood. As resource managers, it is imperative that we all strive to find solutions that benefit future generations.

We appreciate your time and consideration, as well as the opportunity to provide the Colville Tribes' perspective. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your support staff, committees and advisory panels in the coming days here at the PFMC meeting in San Jose, 2025.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

*Cindy Marchand*

E339926F738E465...

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



