



PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY TREATY BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MARCH 18, 1985

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Ms. Rebecca Reid
Canada DFO Regional Director General Pacific
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
200-401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. Canada

February 12, 2018

Dear Ms. Reid,

For thirty-two years, national, native and state fishery managers in Canada and the United States have cooperated under the Pacific Salmon Treaty (Treaty) to conserve and share the harvest of salmon for the benefit of recreational, commercial and native fishers – and the close-knit communities that depend upon them. On behalf of the Pacific Salmon Commission (Commission), we want to thank you for the contribution of management talent and resources over the years to this essential coastwide cooperative.

We want to ask for continued commitment to the fisheries management tasks upon which your peers and constituents – and the Commission – mutually depend.

In recent months, Canada and the United States have been in negotiations to determine the next decade of catch-sharing arrangements. The discussions have given Commissioners a renewed appreciation of the technical expertise needed to conduct Commission business and the talent contributed to the process by management entities - a contribution that depends on recognizing the shared interest among managers for coastwide cooperation.

Discussions have exposed factors that could erode the ability of the Commission to deliver to the management entities the annual determinations necessary to sustain, if not improve, the science and decision-making that is the foundation of coastwide salmon management. Commissioners want to share our concerns.

The first factor relates to ensuring that the priorities of the Commission are fully shared by management entities so that managers are confident that responsibilities will be fulfilled in a timely manner. In particular, the Commission's annual indices of salmon abundance depend on many individual forecasts produced by management entities. The Commission is committed to determine aggregate abundance by April of each year, but shares the frustration when the April deadline is strained. The Commission notes that improved performance is largely dependent on timely and accessible information of high quality. For its part, the Commission is looking at proposals, both procedural and substantive, to expedite the annual forecasting. The Commission hopes that you will join them in emphasizing the importance of efforts to gather and submit annual information within a timeframe that enables the Commission to produce coastwide abundance forecasts in time for both countries' domestic season-setting processes.

Second, and in that regard, the talented staff serving on the Commission's various technical committees often face the daunting tasks of assembling, documenting and analyzing catch and escapement statistics, calibrating models for annual forecasts, and conducting research into new methodologies – all simultaneously. The Commission is concerned that, as a practical matter, much of this workload falls upon a limited number of technical committee members, each of whom is prized for unique skills and quality of work. Addressing the proper membership of technical committees over time, including succession


planning, has become a priority for the Commission. The responsibility is made even-more challenging by the need in the near-term to supplement particular quantitative, modeling, analytical and communication talents in order to address workload issues and improve timeliness. The Commission understands that succession planning and recruitment of talented personnel is of widespread concern. We would like to maintain close communications with you and your participants in the Commission's panels and committees to ensure that the needs of our cooperative management effort are considered when recruiting, hiring and training talented staff.

Third, while Canada and the United States are the formal parties to the Treaty, the Commission's success – and that of coastwide managers – is entirely dependent upon all management entities working together. Even so, the Commission recognizes that Treaty obligations require substantial financial resources. Particularly in the United States where states and tribes are the primary salmon managers, management entity commitments to fulfill Treaty-related tasks may be viewed to exceed the reimbursements provided by national appropriation. The Parties are committed to managing within their budgets, but welcome a discussion with management entities to ensure that available funding is allocated to shared priorities.

Finally, the Commission believes that these and other issues center on the mutual self-interest of all management entities to successfully implement the Treaty and its coastwide conservation regime. In order to further solidify the relationship between the Commission and the management entities, the Commission will be seeking to meet together with principals in Portland, Oregon early next year to discuss management priorities, timely decision-making, available resources and succession, among other topics. The Commission asks that you consider the issues raised above and steps that can be taken in the near-term within your organization to help address them. We ask that you look forward to an important discussion with the Commission and among your peers within which progress on these matters can be shared.

We want to thank you again for your contributions to the coastwide salmon management cooperative that is the Pacific Salmon Treaty. As we seek to conclude negotiation of the next harvest sharing regime, Commissioners look forward to strengthening the ties with and among managers to ensure smooth and successful implementation of the conservation and harvest-sharing regime in Canada and the United States.

Sincerely,



Mr. Robert Turner (Chair)

This letter was circulated to the following recipients:

Ms. Rebecca Reid, Regional Director Pacific General, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Mr. Barry Thom, Regional Administrator, NOAA
Mr. Kevin Werner, Science & Research Director, Northwest Fisheries Science Center
Mr. Curt Melcher, Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mr. Joe Stohr, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mr. Sam Cotton, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mr. Joe Gilbertson, Fisheries Manager, Hoh Indian Tribe.
Ms. Hansi Hals, Natural Resources Department Director, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Mr. Matt Beirne, Natural Resources Director, Lower Elwa Klallam Tribe
Mr. Elden Hillaire, Fish Commission Chairman, Lummi Nation
Mr. Russ Svec, Fisheries Manager, Makah Tribe
Ms. Isabel Tinoco, Fisheries Manager, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
Ms. Georgiana Kautz, Fisheries Manager, Nisqually Indian Tribe
Mr. Gary MacWilliams, Fisheries Manager, Nooksack Indian Tribe
Mr. Paul McCollum, Fisheries Manager, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Mr. Russ Ladley, Fisheries Manager, Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Mr. Frank Geyer, Natural Resources Director, Quileute Nation
Mr. Ed Johnstone, Fisheries Policy Spokesperson, Quinault Indian Nation
Mr. Grant Kirby, Fishery Biologist, Sauk Suiattle Indian Tribe
Mr. Dave Herrera, Fish and Wildlife Policy Advisor, Skokomish Indian Tribe
Mr. Joe Peters, Policy Rep, Squaxin Island Tribe
Mr. Shawn Yanity, Fisheries Manager, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Mr. Rob Purser, Fisheries Director, Suquamish Tribe
Ms. Lorraine Loomis, Fisheries Manager, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Mr. Diego Holgren, Fishery Manager, Natural Resources, Tulalip Tribes
Ms. Doreen Maloney, Fisheries Manager, Upper Skagit Tribe
Mr. Dave Johnson, Program Manager, Department of Fisheries Resources Management, Nez Perce Tribe
Mr. Brad Houslet, Fisheries Department Manager, Warm Springs Fisheries Department
Mr. Gary James, Program Manager, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation
Mr. Steve Parker, Technical Coordinator, Yakama Nation Main Agency Offices

cc.

U.S. PSC Commissioners

Canadian PSC Commissioners

Mr. Justin Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Mr. Jaime Pinkham, Executive Director, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Mr. Gordon Sterritt, Executive Director, Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance
Mr. Jordan Point, Executive Director, First Nations Fisheries Council
Mr. Randy Fisher, Executive Director, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Mr. John Field, Executive Secretary, Pacific Salmon Commission
Mr. Chuck Tracy, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. David Witherell, Executive Director, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Jim Balsiger, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region
Mr. Virgil Moore, Director, Idaho Fish and Game