



Quinault Indian Nation

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RECEIVED

OCT 09 2018

PFMC

Chuck Tracy
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

October 4, 2018

Re: Request for co-manager engagement in Queets Coho Overfishing Report and Rebuilding Plan

Dear Director Tracy,

The Quinault Nation is a self-regulatory tribe with treaty protected fishing rights and co-management authorities and responsibilities over fisheries within its usual and accustomed fishing area. *United States v. Washington*, 384 F. Supp. 333, 342 (1974). Any restriction of treaty fishing is constrained by the conservation necessity standards as defined by the federal courts. *United States v. Washington*, 384 F. Supp. 312, 342 (W.D. Wash. 1974), *aff'd*, 520 F.2d 676 (9th Cir. 1975), *aff'd sub nom. Washington v. Wash. State Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Ass'n*, 443 U.S. 658 (1979).

Quinault was recently provided what we understand to be a 4th order draft section "4.2 Recommendation 2. Management Strategy Alternatives" for comment. While Quinault staff has been requested to provide data and comment on interpretation, Quinault has not been given the opportunity to substantively contribute to the deliberations essential to develop and evaluate alternative approaches for rebuilding Queets naturally spawning coho. We remain concerned on the over reliance of a three year geometric mean escapement as the proper metric for determining overfishing of coho; a species propagated by 3 separate populations of predominantly 3-year old escapements. We are further concerned that the scope of alternatives presented in the draft encompass the range deserving consideration.

We believe that the active engagement of the Quinault Nation and WDFW as co-managers is absolutely essential and necessary for the credible development of the Queets Overfishing Report and Rebuilding Plan. Thus, we formally request that an invitation for substantive participation be immediately extended to the Quinault Nation and WDFW before further significant work on the Plan proceeds.

We look forward to your response to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ed Johnstone', written in a cursive style.

Ed Johnstone
Fisheries Policy Spokesperson

Cc: Robert Kope, STT
Ashton Harp, NWIFC
Robert Jones, NWIFC
Laurie Petersen, WDFW