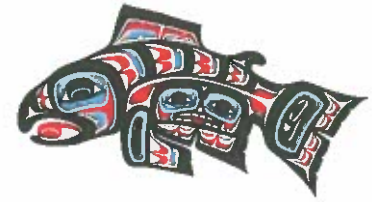




Quileute Natural Resources

QUILEUTE INDIAN TRIBE

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April 2, 2010

Mr. Dave Ortmann, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Quileute Whiting Fishery

Dear Chair Ortmann:

The Quileute Tribe recently conducted an analysis of its developing Whiting fishery for 2010. At this time, the Tribe believes that the Tribe will likely have no more than 1 vessel participating in the 2010 whiting fishery. As we have expressed to the Council in the past, the Tribe believes that at least 8,000 mt. of whiting is necessary to make it economically viable for a vessel to participate in the fishery. Nonetheless, the Tribe believes that the total tribal whiting allocation as set forth in the proposed regulations should not be altered as that amount is clearly within the range of tribal treaty rights and it remains to be seen how much whiting tribal fishers are capable of catching in 2010.

This past season proposals to reallocate whiting catch allocations from treaty to non-treaty fisheries were brought to the Council for consideration. However, we strongly believe that any reapportionment of whiting should not be considered or implemented absent prior consultation with and agreement of the affected tribes. That said, we continue to work with NOAA to develop a process whereby fish allocations can be moved from treaty to non-treaty as well as non-treaty to treaty. Absent such a process, Quileute assert that fish allocated to the tribes are only accessible to treaty fisheries.

The Quileute Tribe will continue to keep the Council apprised of any changes in our whiting fishery as information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Foster,
Vice Chair Quileute Tribal Council
Policy Representative of Quileute Natural Resources Committee

Cc: Frank Lockhart, NOAA Fisheries
Dave Hudson, Hoh Indian Tribe
Ed Johnstone, Quinault Indian Nation
Russell Svec, Makah Indian Tribe