

Tanana Chiefs Conference, 122 First Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99701
Association of Village Council Presidents, 101 Main Street, Bethel, AK 99559

March 17, 2015

Michael Clark
Office of Marine Conservation
Bureau of Oceans & Int'l Environ. & Scientific Affairs
Department of State
Room 7820
Washington, DC 20520

Re: Tribal Consultation for 2015 C-2 Bering Sea Chinook and Chum Salmon Bycatch Management Proposals and Existing Treaty Obligations

Dear Mr. Clark:

The Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Association of Village Council Presidents respectfully request an opportunity for tribal consultation about the United States' obligations under the Yukon River Salmon Agreement, and Annex of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the proposed C-2 Bering Sea Chum and Chinook salmon bycatch management measures the North Pacific Fishery Management Council will consider at its April 2015 meeting. We believe it is important that the Council consider the effect any final action will have on existing treaty rights and obligations, and we believe the Department of State plays an important role in advising the Council that its final action must comply with the Yukon River Salmon Agreement of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

In December 2014, the Council released its initial review of Chum and Chinook bycatch measures in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery. The review proposed alternative measures to reduce Chum and Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea, including incorporating chum salmon prohibited species catch (PSC) with Chinook salmon incentive plan agreements (IPA); modifying existing Chinook salmon incentive plan agreements to include additional incentives to reduce bycatch; revising Bering Sea pollock fishery season dates and seasonal allocations; and

revising federal regulations to lower the performance standard and hard cap indexed to years of low Chinook abundance. It is essential that any action taken to reduce Chinook and chum salmon bycatch also consider our treaty obligations under the Yukon River Salmon Agreement of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and the trust responsibility of the United States to federally recognized tribes.

The Council will be taking final action on these proposed measures at the April 2015 meeting. We respectfully request an opportunity for tribal consultation regarding the effect of these measures on our treaty obligations, during the Council's meeting but prior to the Council taking final action on the proposals. For scheduling, please contact Anna Crary at annac@lbbblawyers.com or (907) 868-9229.

Sincerely,



Victor Joseph, President
Tanana Chiefs Conference



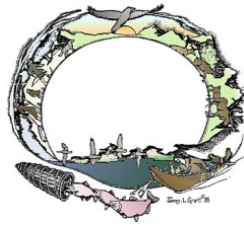
Myron Naneng, Sr., President
Association of Village Council Presidents

Cc:

The Honorable Julie Kitka

Sam Cotten, Acting Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Dan Hull, Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council



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Dr. Jim Balsiger, Regional Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Alaska Regional Office
PO Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

Re: Tribal Consultation for C-2 Bering Sea Chinook and Chum Salmon Bycatch Management Proposals

Dear Dr. Balsiger:

Thank you for the opportunity to consult with you prior to the Council's meeting in December 2014. The Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Association of Village Council Presidents respectfully request another tribal consultation about the C-2 Bering Sea Chum and Chinook salmon bycatch management measures proposed for the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's April 2015 meeting.

In December 2014, the Council released its initial review of Chum and Chinook bycatch measures in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery. The review proposed alternative measures to reduce Chum and Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea, including incorporating Chum salmon prohibited species catch (PSC) with Chinook salmon incentive plan agreements (IPA); modifying existing Chinook salmon IPAs to include additional incentives to reduce bycatch; revising Bering Sea pollock fishery season dates; and revising federal regulations to lower the performance standard indexed to years of low Chinook abundance.

We are aware that the Council will be considering these proposed measures at the April 2015 meeting, and we agree that it is important for the Council to continue developing Chum and Chinook salmon bycatch measures. We respectfully request an opportunity for tribal consultation

regarding the proposed measures, during the Council Meeting and prior to the Council taking final action on the proposals. For scheduling, please contact Anna Crary at annac@lbblawyers.com or (907) 868-9229.

Sincerely,



Victor Joseph, President
Tanana Chiefs Conference



Myron Naneng, Sr., President
Association of Village Council Presidents

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The Honorable Julie Kitka

Sam Cotten, Acting Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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