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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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NORTHWEST INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION
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June 13, 2016

Mr. Robert Turner
Assistant Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 103
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Mr. Turner:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Puget Sound Treaty Tribes are providing the attached fisheries plan for 2016-2017 non-treaty salmon fisheries in Puget Sound and its tributaries to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for consultation and authorization of fisheries under the Endangered Species Act. This plan was developed to ensure that conservation objectives from the Co-managers' 2010 Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan (including modifications made in subsequent years) and NOAA's 2016 guidance to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council are met. Those conservation objectives are outlined in Table 1. The specifics of this year's planned fisheries are described in the enclosed List of Agreed Fisheries. The fisheries in the list describe those included in the final 2017 Fisheries Regulation Assessment Model files previously provided to NMFS staff.

In addition to implementing fisheries that will meet the conservation objectives mentioned above, the co-managers remain committed to continued efforts to implement new recovery strategies for Nisqually and Skokomish summer-fall Chinook. This includes continuation of the attempt to develop a late-timed Chinook run in the Skokomish River in 2016, as described in the plan submitted to NOAA on March 4, 2016. The co-managers will also be undertaking a review and revision of the Nisqually Chinook Stock Management Plan in light of the decision to discontinue the weir program in 2016.

State and Tribal staff are available to provide any additional information needed by NMFS to complete consultation on the 2016-2017 fishery plan. We look forward to successful collaborative efforts with NMFS in assuring conservation goals of the Endangered Species Act will be achieved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Unsworth".

James Unsworth, Director
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Grayum".

Mike Grayum, Executive Director
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Enclosure

Table 1. Exploitation rate ceilings, upper management thresholds, low abundance thresholds, and critical exploitation rate ceilings for Puget Sound Chinook Management Units for the 2016-2017 season.

Management Unit	Exploitation Rate Ceiling	Upper Management Threshold	Low Abundance Threshold	Critical Exploitation Rate Ceiling
Nooksack		4,000		
North Fork		2,000	1,000 ¹	7% / 9% SUS ³
South Fork		2,000	1,000 ¹	
Skagit summer/fall	50%	14,500	4,800	15% SUS even-years 17% SUS odd-years
Upper Skagit summer			2,200	
Sauk summer			400	
Lower Skagit fall			900	
Skagit spring	38%	2,000	576	18% SUS
Upper Sauk			130	
Upper Cascade			170	
Suiattle			170	
Stillaguamish	25%	900	700 ¹	15% SUS
North Fork		600	500 ¹	
South Fk & MS		300	200 ¹	
Snohomish	21%	4,600	2,800 ¹	15% SUS
Skykomish		3,600	1,745 ¹	
Snoqualmie		1,000	521 ¹	
Lake Washington	20% SUS	1,680	200	10% PT SUS
Cedar River				
Green	15% PT SUS	5,800	1,800	12% PT SUS
White River spring	20%	1,000	200	15% SUS
Puyallup fall	50%	500 (South Prairie Cr.)	500	12% PT SUS
Nisqually	50%		700	50% reduction of SUS ER ⁴
Skokomish	50%	3,650	1,300 ²	12% PT SUS
Mid-Hood Canal	15% PT SUS	750	400	12% PT SUS
Dungeness	10% SUS	925	500	6% SUS
Elwha	10% SUS	2,900	1,000	6% SUS
Western JDF	10% SUS	850	500	6% SUS

¹ Natural-origin spawners

² Skokomish LAT is escapement of 800 to natural spawning grounds and 500 to hatchery rack.

³ SUS ER will not exceed 7% in 4 out of 5 years.

⁴ 50% reduction in the difference between 50% Total ER and the expected northern fishery ER.