



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Northwest Regional Office  
911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97232-4169

APR 21 2017

In Reply Refer To:  
Regional Director's Office

Mr. Barry Thom  
Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region  
1201 Northeast Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 100  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Re: Bureau of Indian Affairs' Request for Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act on the 2017-2018 Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Plan

Dear Mr. Thom:

In a letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) dated April 13, 2017, the Puget Sound Treaty Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) (as fishery co-managers) notified NMFS that they have reached agreement on a 2017-2018 Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Plan (2017-2018 Plan or Plan). At the request of the Treaty Tribes that are parties to *United States v. Washington*, the BIA is initiating consultation on the Plan under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with NMFS. The 2017-2018 Plan encompasses the information and commitments of the 2010-2014 RMP as amended by the Summary of Modifications to Management Objectives of the 2010 Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan for the 2017-2018 Season; the 2017-2018 List of Agreed Fisheries (LOAF), which provides specific details about individual anticipated fisheries by location, gear, time and management entity; an addendum related to on-going management of the late-timed fall Chinook hatchery program in the Skokomish River; a summary of the Pacific Salmon Commission Technical Committee 2017 Juan de Fuca Strait Chum Salmon sampling program; and the co-managers' anticipated steelhead impacts.

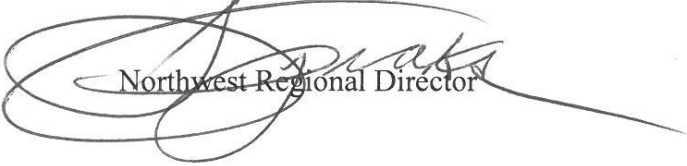
The provisions of the 2017-2018 Plan were developed pursuant to *United States v. Washington* and other related cases. The BIA is initiating consultation on behalf of the Treaty Tribes on the basis of the United States' status as plaintiff in *United States v. Washington* and its role as a party to the Tribes' treaties, which gives the BIA the authority to assist with the development of the co-managers 2017-2018 Plan. The BIA's action is also consistent with the federal government's trust responsibilities and various Secretarial Orders.<sup>1</sup> The BIA is also the lead Federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable laws, regulations and guidelines. Attached for your convenience is a copy of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the 2017-2018 Puget Sound Salmon and Steelhead Fisheries Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> See Secretarial Order 3206, American Indian Tribal Rights, Federal Trust Responsibilities, and the Endangered Species Act (June 5, 1997), Secretarial Order 3335, Reaffirmation of the Federal Trust Responsibility to Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and Individual Indian Beneficiaries (August 20, 2014).

Please contact Rudy Peone, Fisheries Biologist, with questions or comments related to this request. You may contact him at [Rudy.Peone@bia.gov](mailto:Rudy.Peone@bia.gov).

Sincerely,



Northwest Regional Director

Enclosure