



*Nez Perce*

**TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

P.O. BOX 305 • LAPWAI, IDAHO 83540 • (208) 843-2253

March 10, 2021

Paul Doremus, PhD.  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Nomination of Joseph Y. Oatman to the Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dear Dr. Doremus:

The Nez Perce Tribe is excited to support the reappointment of Joseph Y. Oatman to a third term for the Pacific Fishery Management Council Tribal seat. The Tribe understands that this would be his final term if appointed.

We appreciate the opportunity to have a Nez Perce tribal member contribute to the Council process involving management of Pacific coast fisheries to benefit the marine fishery resources of the United States and the people and communities who depend upon them. The Tribe recognizes the important role that the PFMC has in managing West Coast fisheries for approximately 119 species of salmon, groundfish, coastal pelagic species (sardines, anchovies, and mackerel), and highly migratory species (tunas, sharks, and swordfish). These fish and fisheries are critically to the livelihoods and economies of non-Indian fishing communities and Indian tribes.

Indian tribes on the West Coast retain treaty and tribal rights and cultural ties to salmon and other aquatic species based on thousands of years of use for tribal religious/cultural ceremonies, subsistence, and commerce. These species include salmon and steelhead, halibut, whiting, sturgeon, lamprey, and many other species of groundfish and coastal pelagics. The tribes are co-managers of fisheries with state management entities and the Federal government. This is an important forum to address tribal fisheries and protection of key stocks and species of fish that are critical to their culture, health and fishery economies.

The Nez Perce Tribe is committed to meaningful tribal involvement on PFMC, as salmon are key to our culture, identity, and economy. The Nez Perce has Federally recognized fishing rights pursuant to our Treaty of 1855 with the United States (12 Stat. 957). This treaty is considered as

Paul Doremus, Ph.D.  
March 10, 2021  
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an “other applicable law” that PFMC fishery management must be consistent with. The Tribe considers careful management of fishery resources to be one of our most important duties.

Mr. Oatman is the Deputy Manager for the Tribe's Department of Fisheries Resources Management; a department with more than 190 employees, a \$22 million budget operating out of seven offices in three states and one of the largest fisheries departments of any Tribe in the United States. In his role with the Department, Mr. Oatman not only provides administrative management oversight, but he also is the Director for the Harvest Division. In that capacity he oversees the harvest monitoring program and develops the documentation required (harvest allocations and Endangered Species Act compliance) for our Tribe to prosecute our fisheries in the mainstem of the Columbia River as well as in all anadromous fisheries-bearing tributaries of the Snake River basin.

In addition to his activities with the Department, Mr. Oatman has a wealth of knowledge of fisheries and fisheries policy within and outside the Columbia Basin that can be brought to bear for the complicated issues of the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Mr. Oatman has served as an elected member of the Tribe's Fish and Wildlife Commission, serving as Chairman; he is a member of the U.S. v Oregon Technical Advisory Committee; and has served on NOAA Fisheries' Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force. Mr. Oatman is a full member of the U.S. Southern Panel (Pacific Salmon Treaty) and has served recently as the Chair of the bilateral panel; the U.S. Southern Boundary Restoration and Enhancement Fund Committee, Treaty Indian Tribal Representative (Pacific Salmon Treaty)—where he has provided leadership to the twenty-four Western Washington and the four Columbia River treaty tribes involved in these forums.

Mr. Oatman is an excellent representative of tribal treaty fishing rights. He is extremely conscientious, well-spoken and well thought of by our own Tribe and other Treaty Tribes in the Pacific Northwest. We also understand that Mr. Oatman has developed a productive relationship with his fellow Council members, NOAA Fisheries, PFMC staff, and the broader PFMC participants and public.

We believe that Mr. Oatman has considerable expertise to offer the Pacific Fishery Management Council and urge NOAA to re-appoint him to the Tribal representative seat to assist in the work of the Council.

Sincerely,

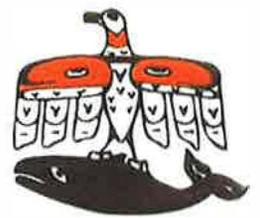


Shannon F. Wheeler  
Chairman



# MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 115 • NEAH BAY, WA 98357 • 360-645-2201



*The Makah Tribe is an equal opportunity employer.*

March 15, 2021

Dr. Paul Doremus  
NOAA Fisheries  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Doremus:

The Makah Tribe nominates Russell Svec to the Tribal seat on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). The Makah Tribe fully supports the nomination of Joe Oatman to the PFMC seat; however, we are nominating Russell Svec in accordance with the requirement to have 3 total tribal nominees under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Since 1998 Mr. Svec has served as the Director of the Tribe's Fishery Management Department overseeing sustainable management of the largest tribal fishing fleet in the United States. He is also responsible for acting as the public representative of Makah Fisheries Management as well as maintaining a strong working relationship with both governmental and non-governmental representatives on fisheries issues. **To be clear on our position, we strongly prefer and recommend that Joe Oatman be appointed to this seat.**

Nominee 1: We wish to support Joe Oatman as our preferred nominee. Mr. Oatman has served admirably for 2 terms as the Tribal Representative on the PFMC. In that capacity, he served not only the interests of the Makah Tribe but fairly reflected the interests of 26 sovereign tribes on the West Coast.

Nominee 2: We wish to nominate Russell Svec as our second nominee. Mr. Svec has extensive knowledge of a number of fishery management processes both national and international. He has a strong working relationship with federal and state government agencies as well as commercial and sport fishing representatives. He is willing to serve if the other qualified nominees cannot or are not appointed.

Thank for your consideration and please forward this information for consideration as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cheryl Sones – Makah Fisheries Management Coordinator at 360 645-3153 or [cheryl.sones@makah.com](mailto:cheryl.sones@makah.com).

Sincerely,  
MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL

Honorable Timothy J. Greene, Sr.  
Chairman

Cc: Barry Thom, NMFS WCRO  
Amilee Wilson, NMFS WCRO



# JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE

1033 Old Blyn Highway, Sequim, WA 98382

360/683-1109

FAX 360/681-4643

March 5, 2021

Dr. Paul Doremus  
NOAA Fisheries  
Assistant Administrator for  
Fisheries 1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Doremus:

The Jamestown Tribe nominates Chairman W. Ron Allen to the Tribal seat on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) to fulfill the Magnuson-Stevens Act requirement that the Secretary of Commerce choose from a list of 3 qualified nominees. The Tribe fully supports the nomination of Joe Oatman to the PFMC seat; however, we are nominating Chairman Allen to ensure the minimum number of names are available for timely consideration and filling of the Tribal PFMC seat. Since 1977 W. Ron Allen has served as Chairman of the Tribe and as Chief Executive Officer since 1982. He is a member of the JKT Art Board, Natural Resources Committee (Ad Hoc member), JKT Gaming Board, Inc. and U.S. Canada/Pacific Salmon Commission. He served four years as President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and a total of 26 years as an officer since 1989. He is well-qualified to serve on PFMC as a representative to the tribes with federally recognized fishing rights. **To be clear on our position, we strongly prefer and recommend that Joe Oatman be appointed to this seat.**

Nominee 1: We wish to support Joe Oatman as our preferred nominee. Mr. Oatman has served admirably for 2 terms as the Tribal Representative on the PFMC. In that capacity, he served not only the interests of the Makah Tribe but fairly reflected the interests of 26 sovereign tribes on the West Coast.

Nominee 2: We wish to nominate Chairman W. Ron Allen as our second nominee. Chairman Allen has extensive knowledge of fishery management processes both national and international. He has a strong working relationship with federal and state government agencies as well as tribal representatives throughout the region. He is willing to serve if the other qualified nominees cannot or are not appointed.

Nominee 3: We understand that the Makah Tribe is nominating Russ Svec which fulfills the requirement of three qualified nominees.

Thank for your consideration and please forward this information for consideration as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 360-681-4669 or [lgreninger@jamestowntribe.org](mailto:lgreninger@jamestowntribe.org).

Sincerely,

Loni Greninger, Vice Chairwoman

Cc: Barry Thom, NMFS WCRO  
Amilee Wilson, NMFS WCRO



# COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 1200  
Portland, Oregon 97232

(503) 238-0667  
F (503) 235-4228  
www.critfc.org

March 12, 2021

Dr. Paul N. Doremus  
Acting Administrator  
NOAA Fisheries Directorate  
1315 East-West Highway  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Pacific Fishery Management Council Nomination

Dear Dr. Doremus:

As Chair of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), I am writing to support the nomination of Mr. Joseph Y. Oatman to serve as the tribal representative on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). Our member tribes (Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama) are committed to meaningful tribal involvement on PFMC, as salmon are key to our cultures, identities, and economies. Salmon produced in the Columbia Basin contribute significantly to PFMC fisheries. Our right to fish was reserved in treaties with the United States in 1855 and we consider the careful management of fishery resources to be one of our most important duties.

Mr. Oatman is currently serving his second term as the tribal representative on PFMC. His term expires in August 2021. If reappointed, this would be his third and final term per law. Joe has extensive knowledge and expertise in Pacific salmon fisheries management. Mr. Oatman is the Deputy Program Manager for the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resources, which employs 200 and has an annual budget of \$20 million. He has a master's degree in Natural Resources from the University of Idaho and has worked on tribal fisheries issues for many years. Mr. Oatman is well respected by his peers on PFMC and is known for bringing his expertise to help resolve complex fisheries issues. Mr. Oatman also serves as the tribal representative on the Pacific Salmon Commission's Southern Panel. Mr. Oatman has served as Chair of this bilateral panel.

The extensive knowledge of tribal treaty rights and fisheries possessed by Mr. Oatman makes him extremely well qualified to serve another term as the tribal representative on PFMC. He has demonstrated the ability to work with other interests to ensure healthy salmon populations for everyone to enjoy. Mr. Oatman has demonstrated his skill representing salmon fishing tribes from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California. His participation in the process will help continue strong working relationships with other interests, help protect tribal treaty rights, and help conserve salmon resources for the benefit of future generations.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that three names be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for the position of tribal representative on PFMC. Mr. Oatman is our preferred nominee. In addition to Mr. Oatman, CRITFC nominates W. Ron Allen (Jamestown S'Klallam) and Russell Svec (Makah) for the position of tribal representative on PFMC.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Takala  
Chair

Cc Chair Shannon Wheeler, Nez Perce  
Chair Delano Saluskin, Yakama  
Chair Raymond Tsumpti, Sr., Warm Springs  
Chair N. Kathryn Brigham, Umatilla  
Executive Director Justin Parker, NWIFC  
Amilee Wilson, NOAA  
Morgan Corey, NOAA