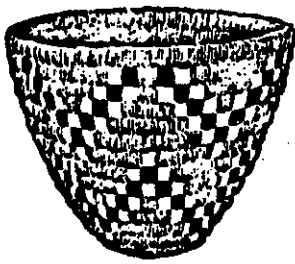


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CONFEDERATED TRIBES of the CHEHALIS RESERVATION

U.S. EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

2019 AUG 13 AM 11:02

August 2, 2019

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
United States Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20130

Subject: 2019 Salmon Fishery Disaster for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation.

Dear Secretary Ross,

As the Chairman of the Chehalis Tribe, I am asking you to declare an economic fishery disaster, pursuant to Section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, so that disaster relief assistance can be provided to Tribal fishermen who are adversely impacted by the closure of our fishery.

The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation have fished the waters of the Chehalis and Black Rivers since time immemorial. The water has sustained our people for countless generations. Though we have seen good years and bad years recently, 2019 is different. Due to man-made and natural causes, beyond the control of the Chehalis Tribe, and our fishermen, we have seen a decline in the number of fish returning and the fish we do see have been significantly smaller. However, in May of 2019 the Tribe, in a coordinated effort with the State of Washington and the Quinault Indian Nation, have closed the fishery entirely as a conservation closure, in response to the historically low numbers of all species of salmon returning in the Chehalis River.

Due to the low numbers of returning fish and the subsequent closure of the fishery, the Chehalis Business Committee, the governing body of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, declared an economic fishery disaster by Tribal resolution (see attached) on August 1, 2019.

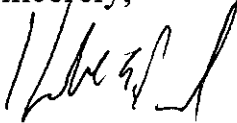
**P.O. BOX 536 • OAKVILLE, WA. 98568
AC 360-273-5911 • FAX 360-273-5914**



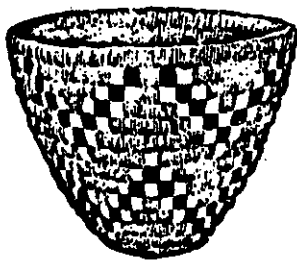
A once thriving fishery on the Chehalis River that has traditionally provided tribal fishermen with commercial fishing income, food for their families and the tribe with fish for ceremonial purposes has halted completely for all species this year. Tribal fishermen have taken only 1 fish from the river to be used for ceremonial purposes. This is effectively a 100% decrease in the fishery.

The Chehalis Business Committee and the Chehalis people thank you for your consideration and timely response to this emergency that is effecting our people. I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harry Pickernell, Sr.', written in a cursive style.

Harry Pickernell, Sr.
Chairman



CONFEDERATED TRIBES of the CHEHALIS RESERVATION

Resolution No. 2019-082

Of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

RE: Approving the application for a Declaration of an Economic Fisheries Disaster from the US Department of Commerce for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

Whereas: The Business Committee of the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation is the duly constituted governing body of the Chehalis Tribe, in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws adopted by voting members of the Tribe and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and

Whereas: The Business Committee is responsible for protecting and enhancing the social, health, educational and economic well-being of Tribal Members; and

Whereas: The Tribe has jurisdiction over the Reservation and all trust lands in Indian Country; and

Whereas: The Chehalis River Spring Chinook 2019 run has been determined to be only approximately 30% of the spawning run necessary for proper escapement; and

Whereas: The Spring Chinook run is a mixed run with other species of anadromous fish returning to the Chehalis River; and

Whereas: As a result of the poor Spring Chinook return, the State of Washington, the Chehalis Tribe and the Quinault nation declared a conservation closure of the Chehalis River;

Whereas: The conservation closure has resulted in the inability of the Chehalis Tribal fishermen to catch fish for the purposes of ceremonial, subsistence and also the commercial fishery to provide income to Chehalis families; and

Whereas: Under the conservation closure, the Chehalis Tribal fishermen were only authorized to catch a single Spring Chinook salmon in order to perform the traditional first salmon ceremony; and

Whereas: The conservation closure is intended to save Spring Chinook salmon from destruction, but the consequence of the closure is to leave Chehalis tribal families without subsistence salmon catches and substantial financial resources from commercial salmon fisheries; and

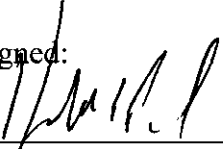


Whereas: The Business Committee finds that these circumstances represent an Economic Fisheries Disaster for Chehalis Tribal Fishermen;

Now Therefore Let It Be Resolved: That the Chehalis Business Committee, as a result of its government-to-government relationship with the United States, formally requests the U.S Secretary of Commerce to declare an Economic Fisheries Disaster as authorized under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and thereby granting the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation access to necessary federal assistance.

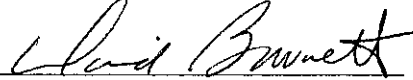
Certification: This Resolution, Number 2019-032, was duly considered and approved at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Chehalis Business Committee held on Aug 1, 2019, at which a quorum was present. The vote being 3 For, 0 Against, with 0 Abstentions and with the Chairman not voting.

Signed:



Harry Pickernell, Sr.
Chairman

Attested:



David Burnett,
Secretary