



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
7600 Sand Point Way NE
SEATTLE, WA 98115

June 9, 2015

Timothy J. Greene, Chairman
Makah Tribe
P.O. Box 115
Neah Bay, WA 98357

Re: Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for the continued implementation and BIA funding of the Lake Ozette Sockeye Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan activities

Dear Mr. Greene:

Enclosed is the biological opinion prepared by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) for continued implementation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funding, of activities conducted as described in the Lake Ozette Sockeye Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan (HGMP).

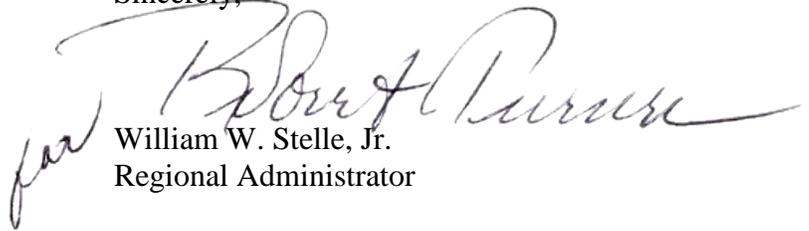
The NMFS has determined that the continued implementation of the program as described in the original Makah 2000 HGMP as authorized by NMFS in 2003, including associated research, monitoring, and evaluation activities, is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed Ozette Lake sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), listed as threatened under the ESA, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of their designated critical habitat. The enclosed document describes our analysis of the continued operation of the Ozette Lake sockeye salmon program, its progress to date, and the anticipated effects of continued operation. Included in the enclosed document is an incidental take statement describing reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions necessary to minimize the effects of the take of listed species.

The enclosed document also addresses impacts on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. By ensuring that the proposed action is implemented as described in the RMP, and complying with the terms of the incidental take statement, NMFS and the BIA will be taking actions necessary to address EFH impacts. NMFS does not have additional EFH conservation recommendations to provide at this time.

We applaud the encouraging progress of your program and appreciate your patience and diligence during this consultation process. If there are any questions regarding this

biological opinion, please contact Tim Tynan, in our Lacey office, at (360) 753-9579,
tim.tynan@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Stelle, Jr.", written in black ink. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

William W. Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Russell Svec, Makah
Jim Unsworth, WDFW
Stephanie Martin, Makah

bc: Tim Tynan
Sharon Houghton (PCTS tracking **WCR-2015-2484**)
Robert Bayley (electronic only)

Distribution: Sharon to send original in hardcopy; Tim to send all others electronically