



Upper Skagit Indian Tribe



SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE

February 26, 2021

Kelly Susewind, WDFW Director
Larry Carpenter, WFWC Chair
1111 Washington St E
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Updates to WDFW Hatchery Reform Policy C-3169

Dear Kelly and Larry:

The Lummi, Tulalip, Upper Skagit and Squaxin Island Tribes have reviewed the updates WDFW made to Hatchery Reform Policy C-3169 in January 2021, subsequent to a letter from the Tribes in December 2020. After sending more than 10 letters to the state on the same topic over the past year regarding the tribal concerns about the Policy it was refreshing to finally see some reflection on behalf of the Department.

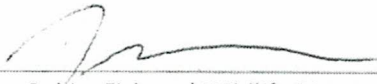
The January 2021 revisions to Policy C-3169 are a step in the right direction and leave the Tribes included in this correspondence with an expectation that the Department has the intent to work as Co-managers to develop a joint policy that would finally bring this policy in line with the legal requirements of the Puget Sound Salmon Management Plan. The Tribes are going to advocate for the adoption of the January Revisions and will articulate our specific concerns in early March. Ultimately, though, the Tribes will not deem the effort of the Department successful until the Director sets a clear tone for all staff that tribal agreement on hatchery policy is legally mandated, not merely desirable for policy or political purposes. Once that has been fully digested by Department staff, the Tribes are hopeful that watershed level work can be efficient, productive and based on Co-Manager collaboration.

The Tribes appreciate that the Department finally acknowledged a couple of key points we repeatedly raised in correspondence, and we hope this is a start to the necessary dialogue and understanding required to develop a true Co-Manager policy. Our intention to preserve the Co-Manager relationship continues to be sincere and we will continue to support the effort with considerable staff time and policy support. We look forward to working together to outline key dates and participants for developing the Co-Manager Hatchery Policy in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Lisa Wilson, Councilwoman, Lummi Indian Business Council



Jason Gobin, Fish and Wildlife Director, Tulalip Tribes



Scott Schuyler, Natural Resources Director, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe



Andy Whitener, Natural Resources Director, Squaxin Island Tribe

(cc): Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy, WDFW

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