



# YUROK TRIBE

190 Klamath Boulevard • Post Office Box 1027 • Klamath, CA 95548

March 12, 2015

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
*Attn: Brian Fredieu*  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Yurok Tribe nomination to PFMC tribal seat

Dear Mr. Fredieu:

On behalf of the Yurok Tribe, I would like to nominate three individuals for the tribal seat on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). Our preferred nominee is Sue Masten, Yurok Tribal Vice-Chair and long-term subsistence and commercial fisher. I'd also like to nominate Mel Moon of the Quileute Tribe, as an alternate, and Jim Harp of the Quinault Tribe.

The Yurok Tribe is a federally recognized tribe located on the lower 44 miles of the Klamath River, with federally reserved fishing rights. The Klamath River fisheries resource is an integral component of the Yurok way of life; intertwined with cultural, ceremonial, sustenance and commercial aspects of Yurok existence. The ancestral territory of the Yurok Tribe was centered on the river, and today the Yurok Reservation extends for a mile on each side of the Klamath River from the Pacific Ocean to just upstream of confluence of the Klamath and Trinity Rivers; these boundaries reflect the importance of the river and its fishery resource to us. Yurok People have also always gathered and fished for marine resources from within our ancestral territory since longer than can be remembered.

Sue Masten has been involved with Yurok fishing issues since before our federally reserved fishing rights were recognized by the federal government. In fact, Sue was instrumental in having our fishing rights acknowledged by the federal government and the courts (*Parravono v Masten*, 9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1995, cert denied, 116 S. Ct. 2546 (1996)). Sue spent many years in the late 1970's to the late 1990's attending PFMC and Klamath Fishery Management Council (KFMC) meetings, testifying on behalf of Yurok People to have our fishing rights acknowledged. Since the Tribal government was formally organized in the 1993, Sue has spent 3 years as Chair and 3 years as Vice Chair, continually advocating for the protection of our fishery resource through responsible management for the past 37 years, so that future generations of Yurok People can benefit from a healthy fishery. More recently, Sue has been actively involved with protecting our marine fishing and gathering rights, as well as leading our efforts as a Co-Manager to participate in marine planning activities under the National Ocean Policy.

Mel Moon is director of Quileute's Natural Resources Department, a position he has held for 30 years. In that capacity he has been a commissioner to Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, an appointee to the federal advisory committee for Marine Protected Areas, and a continual representative for the Quileute tribe to the Pacific Salmon Commission, PFMC, and North of Falcon (Washington State salmon). He has negotiated a number of management agreements with the state and the coastal treaty tribes regarding both the marine and river fisheries. Mel has expressed an interest in serving as an alternate for the Tribal seat, which is what we are nominating him to be considered for.

We would also like to nominate Jim Harp for consideration as the tribal representative on the PFMC. Jim has many years of experience with the PFMC, serving in the tribal seat for several terms. Jim also served as the PFMC liaison to the KFMC for several years, thereby having first-hand knowledge of issues in the Klamath Basin. As a tribal representative on the PFMC, Jim was open to working with us to represent our ideas in the Council process.

Finally, I would like to note that given the complexities of fishery issues facing Tribes along the west coast, as well as the geographic scope of these fisheries, we think the process should allow for more than one tribal seat. Absent additional Tribal seats, we support the concept of alternates being used in the Tribal seat, so that perspectives closest particular issues are better represented.

In summary, we are nominating Sue Masten as our preferred representative on the PFMC. We also believe that the Council would be well-served by our nominee Mel Moon, as an alternate for the Tribal seat, and Jim Harp as a representative for the Tribal seat. If you have any questions regarding these nominations, please contact me at the address in the letterhead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T O'Rourke". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Thomas O'Rourke, Chair