UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

MAR 21 2013

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Billy Frank, Jr.
Chairman
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
6730 Martin Way East
Olympia, Washington 98516

Dear ~~Chairman Frank~~: Billy –

Thank you for your letter dated February 21, 2013, which was sent on behalf of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and continues our important discussion regarding human health protection of Washington citizens through the development of revised water quality standards and an associated fish consumption rate. Your letter also provided a draft framework for a Government Leadership Oversight Group, which we understand was developed in partnership with all Washington tribes.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency appreciates the time and effort you have put into working with all the Washington tribes to develop the draft framework in follow-up to our November 15, 2012 meeting. The draft framework provides an important starting point for our next meeting and will help ensure that the participants are aware of the expectations related to the government to government discussions with the EPA, the Washington tribes, and the Department of Ecology. As requested, the EPA has scheduled a leadership meeting on April 25, 2013, to discuss the draft framework as well as timelines and benchmarks for Ecology's adoption of revised human health criteria.

The EPA looks forward to continued collaboration with you and Ecology for a successful outcome. If you have further questions, please contact Dan Opalski, our Director for the Office of Water and Watersheds, at (206) 553-1855.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. McLerran
Regional Administrator

cc: Ms. Maia Bellon, Director
Washington Department of Ecology

Ms. Fran Wilshusen, Habitat Services Manager
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Ms. Ann Seiter, Coordinator
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission