



**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF  
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS**

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

1245 Fulton Ave. • Coos Bay, OR 97420 • (541) 888-9577 • 1-888-280-0726  
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October 16, 2008

Bill Blosser, Chair  
Oregon Environmental Quality Commission  
811 Sixth Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204-1390

RE: Support for an Increase to the State of Oregon's Fish Consumption Rate

Dear Chairman Blosser,

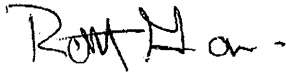
The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians support the proposed 175 grams per day Fish Consumption Rate for Oregon. The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians are one of nine federally recognized Indian Tribes located within Oregon whose aboriginal territory encompasses significant parts of the Central and Southern Oregon Coast. Our people and culture have historically relied on the abundant levels of fish and shellfish within this aboriginal territory.

The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, and many other tribes that consume fish and shellfish, are in a uniquely threatened position because of the prevalent use of toxics over the last seventy-five years. Fish and shellfish spending time in Oregon's waters are exposed to pollutants that can remain in fish tissue for long periods of time. Tribal people, and other fish and shellfish consumers, are at a significant risk of adverse health effects currently under Oregon's current Fish Consumption Rate of 17.5 grams/day which represents approximately 0.5 fish meals/week.

The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians support increasing Oregon's Fish Consumption Rate to 175 grams/day. On May 20, 2007, our Tribal Council unanimously passed Resolution Number 07-057. This resolution formally provided support for an increase to Oregon's current Fish Consumption Rate. The proposed number will increase the ability of Oregon's water quality standards to adequately protect the health of all Oregonians. This is especially true given the significant uncertainty about the synergistic effects of ingesting the multiple toxic chemicals found in Oregon's fish and shellfish. We ask that the Environmental Quality Commission adopt the proposed increased Fish Consumption Rate at the upcoming October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

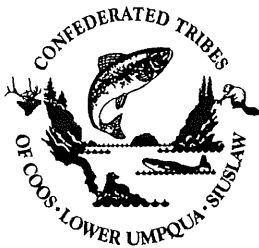
Please feel free to contact our Director of the Department of Natural Resources, Howard Crombie, with any questions about our position on this matter. I look forward to the outcome of the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Environmental Quality Commission meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Robert Garcia, Chairman  
Confederated Tribes of the  
Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians

Cc: Elin Miller, EPA Region 10 Regional Administrator  
Dick Pederson, ODEQ Director  
Howard Crombie, CTCLUSI Department of Natural Resources



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**RESOLUTION NO:** 07-057  
**Date of Passage:** May 20, 2007  
**Subject (title):** Support for an Increase in Oregon's Fish Consumption Rate

**WHEREAS:** This Council is the Governing Body of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and is authorized to act on behalf of said Tribes;

**WHEREAS:** Native fish and shellfish are culturally significant to the Tribes;

**WHEREAS:** The Tribes have a relatively higher fish and shellfish consumption rate than Oregon's general population;

**WHEREAS:** Oregon's current fish consumption rate of 17.5 grams/day, which is about *two* eight ounce meals per month, does not accurately represent tribal member fish and shellfish consumption rates.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Tribes support an increase in Oregon's fish consumption rate.

**CERTIFICATION:** On May 20, 2007, this recommendation was approved at a Regular Tribal Council Meeting held this date, and the vote was:

7 FOR

0 AGAINST

0 ABSTAIN

Bob Garcia  
Bob Garcia, Chair

Mark Ingersoll  
Mark Ingersoll, Vice-Chair

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF COOS,  
LOWER UMPQUA & SIUSLAW INDIANS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman