

DRAFT

May 3, 2006

Keith Wolf
KWA Ecological Sciences Inc.
PO Box 1017
Duvall, WA 98019

Jeffrey P. Fisher, Ph.D.
Environmental Concerns Chair
Western Division American Fisheries Society
5232 Kinney Road SW
Olympia, WA 98512

Dear Messrs. Wolf and Fisher;

The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) received your letters dated April 5, and April 7, 2006, respectively, regarding the expectation of honorariums being provided to the independent scientific reviewers who worked through the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) at the request of Affiliated Tribe of Northwest Indians (ATNI) to provide scientific analyses of the 2004 NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion.

The CBFWA members would like to thank the Western Division of AFS for supporting the report and honor the scientists who volunteered their valuable time to develop it. Clearly, a report that presents independent science of this caliber provides the region with a meritorious perspective.

Your concerns were presented to the Members of CBFWA on May 3, 2006. Background correspondence was also provided, and the Members asked me to respond to your letters, which claim that honorariums were promised and have not been paid. Further, there seems to be a misunderstanding of the role of CBFWA staff as responsible for ensuring the timely payment of the honorariums. For the purpose of clarifying the record, CBFWA staff was authorized by the former Executive Director to assist the "Regional Strategy Group" only with coordination, facilitation, meeting room space, and administrative support on behalf of the request made by ATNI. The Members recognize that CBFWA staff played a role in coordinating the ATNI request for the scientific review, however, it was made clear all along to the strategy group, ATNI and AFS, that CBFWA was not responsible for the honorariums. CBFWA Members noted the request for honorariums was appropriately addressed in the February 24, 2005 letter from AFS to ATNI, and an invoice was sent by AFS to ATNI on September 28, 2005. The CBFWA does not have a contract or an obligation with AFS to provide the honorariums.

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The CBFWA Members agree that the report provided a valuable perspective to the remanded NOAA Fisheries 2004 Biological Opinion. They would like to assist in resolving this issue, and have authorized CBFWA staff to coordinate any discussions between AFS and ATNI, should either party make such a request.

Please contact me at 503-229-0191 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian Lipscomb, Executive Director
Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority

Cc: Members, CBFWA
Lyn Dennis, ATNI
Ernie Stensgar, Cd'AT
Rob Lothrop, CRITFC
Phil Roger, CRITFC
Edward Sheets, Consultant
Todd True, Earthjustice
Roy Sampsel, GRMI
Nicole Cordan, SOS
Andrew Englander, SOS

Enclosures (6)