

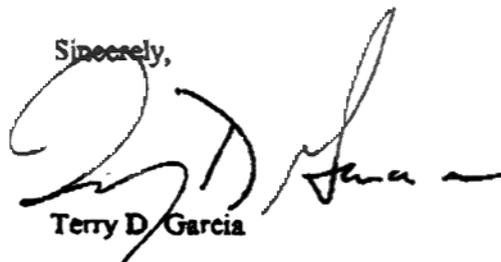
such a way that, among other things, it does not discriminate against tribal fishing rights and is implemented in the least restrictive manner. Accordingly, the tribes may reasonably expect, as a matter of policy, that tribal fishing rights will be given priority over the interests of other entities, federal and non-federal, that do not stand in a trust relationship with the United States.

The Secretaries of Commerce and Interior recognized the importance of harmonizing their trust responsibilities with their statutory obligations under the ESA in the Secretarial Order of June 5, 1997. The federal agencies will continue to consult with all affected tribes on a government to government basis as provided for in the President's Memorandum on Government to Government Relations with Native Americans, April 29, 1994, and Executive Order 13084 on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, May 14, 1998.

The federal agencies will continue to join with the states and tribes to develop a comprehensive approach to the restoration of fish and wildlife resources in a manner that fulfills all obligations under federal law, including the trust obligations to Indian tribes. Toward that end, the federal government continues to support the "Three Sovereigns" process to develop a regional plan for the conservation of listed species and restoration of healthy, sustainable and harvestable populations of salmon.

We look forward to continuing to work with the people of the region, including the Columbia River Treaty Tribes, to accomplish salmon recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry D. Garcia", is written over a horizontal line.

Terry D. Garcia