UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
PORTLAND OFFICE
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-1274

September 7, 2005

Mr. Steve Williams
Assistant Chief of Fisheries
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Avenue, NE
Salem, Oregon 97303

Dear Mr. Williams:

Thank you for providing, under a cover letter dated August 31, 2005, the 2004 annual report describing implementation of the Siltcoos and Tahkenitch Lakes Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plan (FMEP). The report also included Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) plans for the fishery in the fall of this year, and a request for National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) concurrence with the planned fishery.

NOAA Fisheries Service has reviewed the annual report and plans for the upcoming season. We are pleased to see that the 2004 fishery was managed successfully and the escapement of naturally produced coho salmon to the Siltcoos and Tahkenitch Basins was near record levels. For the 2005 season, ODFW is proposing quotas of 300 and 200 adult fish in Siltcoos and Tahkenitch Lakes, respectively. These quotas are half of the 2004 quotas. We believe erring on the conservative side (as you have) is prudent, given the poor catches of coho salmon in this summer's ocean fishery. Since the criteria specified in the FMEP that justify the proposed fishery are anticipated to be met, we concur with ODFW's plans for implementing and monitoring this year's fishery.

The ODFW should be applauded for the conservation and sustainable fisheries principles used to manage these fisheries. The Siltcoos and Tahkenitch Lakes is a good example of the ecological and societal benefits of restoring wild runs of salmon to healthy and productive levels.

Please contact myself, at (503) 230-5427, or Lance Kruzic, of my staff, at (541) 957-3381, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Delarm

FOR Rob Jones, Chief
Hatcheries and Inland Fisheries Branch

cc: Bob Buckman