**Saltwater Sovereignty:**

**Tribal Marine Management Authority Along the Pacific Coast**

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No one doubts that access to and management control over natural resources is a critical component of tribal sovereignty. Nevertheless, Tribes’ relationships to the ocean have received less scholarly attention as an issue of tribal sovereignty than either water rights or terrestrial sovereignty issues. This Article seeks to fill that gap by examining in detail how Pacific coast tribes are increasingly influencing marine resource management and use as an aspect of tribal sovereignty.

This article will begin with the so-called “Stevens treaty” tribes that have established and recognized rights to hunt and fish in all of their “usual and accustomed places.” These treaty rights increasingly influence marine and anadromous fish management from Washington through northern California. In Washington State, for example, these marine aspects of sovereignty became a significant factor in the state’s recent state-wide marine spatial planning process for the entirety of state coastal waters. In Oregon, these treaty rights gave the Klamath Tribes very large and very old water rights in the Klamath River, which have changed both the river politics and the reliability of instream flows for the fish. Finally, the Makah Whaling controversy is entering its third decade.

The article will then move to the many coastal tribes in the Pacific Northwest who have reservations that encompass the coast and ocean. This part of the paper will likely focus on the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, which has invested heavily in coastal aquaculture; the Lummi Nation, whose reservation extends into Puget Sound; and the Tolowa Dee-ní Nation in northern California, which is entering into agreements with the State to co-manage two marine protected areas—the first such governance agreements in California.