



Dear Tribal Leader,

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) invites you to a tribal consultation on advancing co-stewardship as outlined in the Joint Secretarial Order 3403: Fulfilling the Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes in the Stewardship of Federal Lands and Waters (JSO 3403).

On November 21, 2022, in coordination with the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture, JSO 3403 was amended to include the Department of Commerce (see Attachment 1). The purpose of JSO 3403 is to ensure Federal lands and waters are managed in a manner that protects the treaty, religious, subsistence, and cultural interests of federally recognized Indian tribes, including the Native Hawaiian Community, with an emphasis on co-stewardship. NOAA is implementing the directives of JSO 3403 and developing co-stewardship opportunities with federally recognized tribes and Native Hawaiian Community.

NOAA is currently in the process of a legal review of our land, water, and fish/wildlife treaty responsibilities and authorities that can support the implementation of JSO 3403. NOAA is interested in working with Tribal Nations to build our collective understanding of stewardship and co-stewardship and identify ways to advance the goals of JSO 3403 at NOAA and within the Department of Commerce. As part of this process, NOAA would benefit from tribal consultation on a number of issues related to JSO 3403, specifically we are seeking your input and feedback on the following:

- 1) The definitions of stewardship and co-stewardship in the context of your tribe. NOAA has prepared draft definitions (see Attachment 2) as a starting point for this dialog.
- 2) Examples of co-stewardship agreements that should be modeled or avoided;
- 3) Involvement of Indigenous Knowledge in co-stewardship (i.e., agreements, work, decision-making); and,
- 4) Any other thoughts and input that you may have for NOAA as we work collectively to advance the goals of JSO 3403, such as opportunities for further relationship building.

On behalf of NOAA, Becky Lizama, NOAA Senior Tribal Liaison, and Adam Dilts, NOAA General Counsel Tribal Liaison, will join me in this consultation. We will hold two formal consultations for tribal representatives on the following dates/times.

- October 3, 2023, 1:00-3:00 PM Eastern. Please [register here](#) to join.
- October 4, 2023, 2:00-4:00 PM Eastern. Please [register here](#) to join.
- October 13, 2023, 3:00-5:00 PM Eastern. Please [register here](#) to join.

We strongly value your thoughts, knowledge, and input. In addition to providing input through this tribal consultation, you may provide comments in writing through Thursday, November 9th, 2023. Please send your written submissions to Becky Cruz Lizama, NOAA Senior Tribal

Liaison, at OLIA.Tribal@noaa.gov, and identify your submission as “Advancing Co-stewardship Consultation.”

If you have any questions regarding this effort, please contact Dr. Zachary Penney via email (zachary.penney@noaa.gov) or phone at 202-482-2530.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zachary Penney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Zachary L. Penney
NOAA Senior Advisor

2 Attachments