HONORABLE RICARDO S. MARTINEZ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE 9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al., Case No. C70-9213 10 Subproceeding No. 17-3 Plaintiff, 11 UPPER SKAGIT INDIAN TRIBE'S v. 12 MOTION FOR JUDGMENT ON PARTIAL FINDINGS AGAINST STILLAGUAMISH STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al., 13 TRIBE PURSUANT TO FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 52(c) Defendant. 14 **NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR:** 15 **APRIL 22, 2022** 16 I. INTRODUCTION 17 The Stillaguamish Tribe ("Stillaguamish") failed to present any evidence during its case-in-18 19 chief from which the Court can find that Stillaguamish "customarily fished from time to time at and before treaty times" in the marine waters of Saratoga Passage, Penn Cove, Holmes Harbor, 20 21 Skagit Bay, Port Susan, or Deception Pass. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 52(c) 22 Respondent Upper Skagit Indian Tribe ("Upper Skagit") respectfully moves for entry of judgment 23 against Stillaguamish denying its Request for Determination in its entirety. 24 25 26 LAW OFFICES UPPER SKAGIT INDIAN TRIBE'S MOTION FOR JUDGMENT ON HARRIGAN LEYH FARMER & THOMSEN LLP PARTIAL FINDINGS AGAINST STILLAGUAMISH TRIBE 999 THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 4400 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104 PURSUANT TO FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 52(c) - 1 TEL (206) 623-1700 FAX (206) 623-8717 (Case No. C70-9213, Subproceeding No. 17-3)

П. **ARGUMENT**

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UPPER SKAGIT INDIAN TRIBE'S MOTION FOR JUDGMENT ON PARTIAL FINDINGS AGAINST STILLAGUAMISH TRIBE PURSUANT TO FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 52(c) - 2 (Case No. C70-9213, Subproceeding No. 17-3)

Rule 52(c) Authorizes Entry of Partial Judgment Against Stillaguamish.

When "a party has been fully heard" on an issue tried to the district court, and the court determines that the party has not met its burden of proof on that claim, Rule 52(c) authorizes the court to "enter judgment against the party on a claim . . . that, under the controlling law, can be maintained . . . only with a favorable finding on that issue." Fed. R. Civ. P. 52(c). "In deciding whether to enter judgment on partial findings under Rule 52(c), the district court is not required to draw any inferences in favor of the non-moving party," Ritchie v. United States, 451 F.3d 1019, 1023 (9th Cir. 2006), but instead "may make findings in accordance with its own view of the evidence," id. ("Rule 52(c) expressly authorizes the district court to resolve disputed issues of fact."); Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, London v. Pettit, No. C17-259 RSM, 2018 WL 5874653, at *2 (W.D. Wash. Nov. 9, 2018) ("trial court is empowered to judge the credibility of the witnesses"). "In reviewing a judgment following a bench trial," including the dismissal of a claim under Rule 52(c), the district court's findings of fact are reviewed "for clear error and its legal conclusions de novo." Tonry v. Sec. Experts, Inc., 20 F.3d 967, 970 (9th Cir. 1994).

Here, Stillaguamish's case-in-chief fell far short of proof that Stillaguamish's "usual and accustomed fishing grounds and stations" ("U&A") included any marine waters. The evidence confirmed that the Stillaguamish were a river fishing people. They enjoyed an abundance of fishing opportunity on their home river. There is overwhelming evidence that the Stillaguamish fished very successfully by focusing on salmon moving upstream in the Stillaguamish River. It is not surprising then that the historical record contains no evidence that the Stillaguamish fished "customarily . . . from time to time" in saltwater, much less that such marine areas were their "usual and accustomed" grounds and stations. This failure of proof applies to Saratoga Pass, Penn Cove, Holmes Harbor, Skagit Bay, Port Susan, and Deception Pass. The Court should enter

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judgment against each and every aspect of Stillaguamish's request for determination.¹

B. Stillaguamish Has Failed to Present Evidence Sufficient to Establish U&A in Saratoga Pass, Penn Cove, Holmes Harbor, Skagit Bay, Port Susan, or Deception Pass.

Stillaguamish has not presented any evidence from which this Court can conclude that Stillaguamish's "usual and accustomed fishing grounds and stations" ("U&A"), as reserved under the Treaty of Point Elliot, included Saratoga Pass, Penn Cove, Holmes Harbor, Skagit Bay, Port Susan, or Deception Pass.

1. Dr. Friday Did Not Establish, but Merely Speculated, that Stillaguamish Fished Everywhere They Traveled.

In order to prove U&A in the marine waters of Saratoga Pass, Penn Cove, Holmes Harbor, Skagit Bay, Port Susan, and Deception Pass, the law of the case requires that Stillaguamish do more than proffer evidence of (potential) village locations, (infrequent) travel, or (possible) presence in an area. Stillaguamish had the burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the existence of tribal villages or their presence in an area "coincide[d] with" evidence of fishing. *United States v. Washington*, 459 F. Supp. 1020, 1059 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 10, 1975) (holding evidence of village locations not enough to prove fishing at those locations). I.e., "evidence" of fishing in an area means more than inferring that if they were there, they must have actually and usually fished.

In the 1975 subproceeding, the Court considered three types of evidence in determining the Tulalip Tribes' U&A: testimony by Dr. Barbara Lane, testimony from a tribal elder about post-treaty fishing locations, and ICC findings about the location of Tulalip's "coastal and river villages." *Id.* The Court held that the ICC findings "of the Indian coastal and river villages," although raising the "presum[ption]" of fishing activities, was not enough. *Id.* The Court held:

¹ See Pettit, 2018 WL 2874653, at *4 (entering judgment against plaintiff on negligence and unseaworthiness claims pursuant to Rule 52(c) where evidence presented by plaintiff at trial failed to establish cause of fire, defendant's breach of duty of care, and injury caused by vessels' unseaworthy condition); *K&SD Enters., Inc. v. Equilon Enters. LLC*, No. C05-1972-JCC, 2007 WL 9775505, at *2 (W.D. Wash. Jan. 18, 2007) (granting defendant's Rule 52(c) motion where plaintiff's evidence at close of its case failed to support breach of contract claim).

In the present case, the findings of the Claims Commission of the Indian coastal and river villages, from which fishing activities may be presumed, *coincide with the findings of Dr. Lane and the testimony of Mrs. Dover.* Future utilization of Indian Claims Commission decisions and findings for the purpose of establishing the usual and accustomed fishing places *shall be given consideration consistent with the above stated limitations*.

Id. (emphasis added). Even though the Tulalip Tribes had proven "coastal and river villages, by which fishing activities may be presumed," that presumption was not enough to support a "reasonable inference[]" that fishing activities had occurred there. Id. Instead, to support a U&A finding, the Court required evidence of fishing to accompany evidence of coastal and river villages. Id.

Stillaguamish has presented no such evidence at trial. Dr. Friday cannot point to any evidence of treaty time fishing by Stillaguamish in the marine waters of Saratoga Passage, Penn Cove, Holmes Harbor, Skagit Bay, Port Susan, or Deception Pass. The historian's recurring theme is that, at or before treaty time, Stillaguamish traveled over the marine area between Olympia, Washington and Victoria, British Columbia and must have fished while they traveled. Dr. Friday has interpreted a smattering of records of travel to claim that Stillaguamish fished in these (and other) locations. But none of the evidence on which his conclusions depend is of actual fishing. Dr. Friday claims that the "context" compels the conclusion of regular "utilization" of marine resources. But this simply demonstrates the fundamental flaw in his analysis: it is flatly inconsistent with the law of the case. If the Court were to endorse Dr. Friday's approach, Stillaguamish (or almost any other Coast Salish tribe, for that matter) could just as easily lay claim to fishing rights at Lummi Island, Port Gamble, and Elliott Bay. In that case, this case would rapidly develop more arms than an octopus as other tribes would be compelled to respond in kind.

Dr. Friday adds to his travel speculation a hodgepodge of vague evidence of disputed

² See, e.g., Farmer Decl., Ex. 2 at 65:16-67:11 (speculating about travel to Lummi for winter dances and concluding that "there's, at least, a suggestion that that might be a part of a seasonal cycle of migration based on ceremony."); Ex. 3 at 56:12-25 (speculating that Stillaguamish were out on saltwater and noting that August would have been a good time to salmon fish in Shilshole and Elliott Bay). All exhibits ("Ex.") referenced herein are attached to the Declaration of Tyler L. Farmer, filed in support of this motion.

village locations (which may or may not have been Stillaguamish), infrequent travel, exogamy, and post-treaty conduct. In the absence of direct evidence of fishing (of which Dr. Friday offers none), this kind of evidence has been regularly and properly rejected in determining U&A and should be rejected here. *See* 459 F. Supp. at 1059.

2. There is No Evidence That Stillaguamish Customarily Fished in Saratoga Passage at and Before Treaty Time.

Stillaguamish has presented no evidence in its case-in-chief of Stillaguamish fishing at and before treaty time in the waters of Saratoga Passage. Dr. Friday testified that Stillaguamish "engaged in marine fisheries" (Farmer Decl., Ex. 1 at 79:21) in Saratoga Passage, but he relied almost exclusively on post-Treaty references to a Stillaguamish presence on Camano Island, including a single documented instance of Stillaguamish in 1856 seeking permission to travel from the temporary encampment on Whidbey Island near Penn Cove to Camano Island to harvest berries. Ex. SW-021 at p. 677; Farmer Decl., Ex. 2 at 79:5-17. Dr. Friday was unable to identify a shred of evidence of the existence, much less the specific location, of any Stillaguamish village on the shores of Saratoga Passage:

- Q. Dr. Friday, do you have any evidence . . . that identifies a specific location for a Stillaguamish village or encampment on the western side of Camano Island?
- A. Only that they were present on Camano Island on the north side, and then, uhm, just the references to being present on the island itself.

Farmer Decl., Ex. 3 at 169:10-16. He also failed to identify any direct evidence of Stillaguamish fishing in the marine waters of Saratoga Passage at and before treaty time:

- Q. And is it correct that you have no direct evidence on the Stillaguamish Tribe fishing in Saratoga Passage at treaty time?
- A. The evidence that I have comes from the context of them moving through that area, and the -- and the notations that they were present on the western side of Camano Island, which is on the shoreline of Saratoga Passage.

Id. at 158:8-13.

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Dr. Friday's testimony epitomizes the wisdom of the law of this case: travel and/or

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presence do not establish fishing. If they did, there will literally be a parade of similar assertions by tribes. There is no informant testimony, no tribal voice, no historical writing, no artifact. There is no evidence of a *single* Stillaguamish tribal member fishing in the waters of Saratoga Passage at any date at or before treaty time.

3. There is No Evidence That Stillaguamish Customarily Fished at Penn Cove.

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Faced with no evidence at all of Stillaguamish fishing at Penn Cove, Dr. Friday turned to speculation, which in turn was generated by irrelevant evidence. Dr. Friday placed Stillaguamish at Penn Cove during a period of Indian relocation from 1856 and 1857. Farmer Decl., Ex. 4 at 8:10-12. Nothing in the Indian Agent reports remotely suggests that Stillaguamish were regularly present (let alone regularly present and fishing) at Penn Cove before the government embarked on relocation camps. Dr. Friday says that: "the context that is created by these documents illustrates their knowledge of the areas, their movement across the areas, and their presence in the areas." *Id.* at 10:20-11:1. But these events prove nothing about fishing, much less U&A, during the relevant time period. There must be empirical evidence of fishing, and at the relevant time: i.e., the evidence must be probative of fishing at or before treaty time, not later. There is none. Stillaguamish members' relocation to Whidbey Island has no bearing on the issue here: whether Stillaguamish fished in the marine waters in Penn Cove at and before treaty time, much less did so "customarily."

Tribal relocation was part of a hostile history. The effort had little or nothing to do with the Indian Tribes' customary arrangements at and before Treaty time. The Tribes were ordered to relocate based on their geographic proximity to a reserve, not based on any effort to keep them in their familiar territory. In fact, Stillaguamish members *left* the relocation camps at Penn Cove and Holmes Harbor to go home, back up the Stillaguamish River to their traditional territory and resources. Farmer Decl., Ex. 2 at 67:12-17 (Stillaguamish "gone to Stillaguamish River to look after the family's potato patch").

There is no evidence from which the Court could infer Stillaguamish U&A in the marine

waters of Penn Cove.

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4. Stillaguamish Did Not Customarily Fish Holmes Harbor.

Stillaguamish's claim of U&A in the marine waters of Holmes Harbor is fatally defective for similar reasons. The evidence at trial showed that the bshi (i.e., the Bsigwigwilts, predecessor in interest to Upper Skagit) owned Holmes Harbor. Ex. SG-121 at p. 17; *accord* Farmer Decl., Ex. 2 at 171:2-4. There is no evidence of Stillaguamish presence in (let alone control of or fishing in) Holmes Harbor at or before treaty time save for Mowich Sam, which proves nothing. Sally Snyder's notes explain that Mowich Sam "went there to fish" *because* he "had a [bshi] wife." Ex. SG-121 at p. 17; *see also* Farmer Decl., Ex. 2 at 171:2-4 ("Q. What tribe was his wife a member of? A. The Bshi tribe here, who Snyder identified as owning Holmes Harbor."). I.e., Mowich Sam was allowed to fish in the marine waters at Holmes Harbor not because Stillaguamish fished there at and before treaty times, but because his wife was a member of the tribe that controlled the resource. Dr. Friday ultimately conceded this point during cross-examination:

- Q. And Mowich Sam gained access to the right to fish in Holmes Harbor by way of marriage; correct?
- A. That appears to be so, yes.

Farmer Decl., Ex. 4 at 6:5-7; *accord United States v. Washington*, 476 F. Supp. 1011, 1110 (W.D. Wash. 1979) ("Being communal in nature, [U&A fishing] rights are not inheritable or assignable by the individual member to any person, party or other entity of any kind whatsoever.").

Lacking any evidence of Stillaguamish fishing at Holmes Harbor, Dr. Friday resorted to speculation based on the temporally and substantively irrelevant post-Treaty "journals and correspondence" from Indian agents stationed at relocation camps on Whidbey Island. Farmer Decl., Ex. 4 at 9:25-103; *see also id.* at 6:5-7:2 (testifying to bases of opinion regarding Stillaguamish U&A in Holmes Harbor). As set forth in the Penn Cove section immediately above, the Indian Agents' reports (*see* Exs. SW-021, SG-017, SG-032) do not provide any evidence of Stillaguamish fishing in either Penn Cove or Holmes Harbor on a single occasion at and before

Q. Okay. In this affidavit, Mr. Dorsey does not state that the Stillaguamish fished anywhere in marine waters; correct?

A. Correct.

Id. at 30:11-31:5.

While the evidence at trial included numerous references to Stillaguamish fishing on its river, there is not a shred of evidence of Stillaguamish fishing on Skagit Bay.

6. Stillaguamish Did Not Customarily Fish Port Susan at and Before Treaty Time.

Stillaguamish claims U&A in Port Susan based on its location, on an unsupportable presumption that Stillaguamish inhabited the Qwadsak area, and on speculation regarding a single reference to shellfish. While the claim has superficial appeal because of the area's proximity to the Stillaguamish River, it fails because there is no evidence of actual fishing in the marine waters.

The evidence at trial was that the area adjacent to Port Susan was inhabited by Qwadsak, an indigenous people separate and distinct from the Stillaguamish. Dr. Friday testified:

- Q: And on the basis of the information we have reviewed on this page and the previous page, taken from Ms. Peters by anthropologist Wayne Suttles, is it fair to say, Dr. Friday, that Suzy Peters distinguished between the Quadsak people and the Stillaguamish people?
- A: She made a distinction between the people who lived at Port Susan and lived up the Stillaguamish River. She doesn't draw a line where that end of that is above the Stillaguamish River.

Id. at 70:5-12.

The evidence at trial establishes that at treaty time the Stillaguamish area began, at a minimum, four or five miles upriver (SW-176 at LANEST_000482), and that the large majority of the people lived approximately twenty miles upriver. Farmer Decl., Ex. 3 at 67:20-69:25; Ex. USA-28 (Barbara Lane relying on Hancock's account of 1850 trip; village with approximately 300 people "some 20 miles up the river").

Dr. Friday's attempt to conflate the Stillaguamish and the Qwadsak also ignores the evidence of where Stillaguamish actually fished, all of which consists of river fishing. Copious

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1	details of this kind of resource use relayed by informant Jackson Harvey concern specific river
2	fishing techniques and upriver locations, including Arlington, Falls Creek, and Canyon Creek. Dr
3	Friday drew on Mr. Harvey's terminology to compile his own (misleading) summary of
4	Stillaguamish and Coast Salish Marine Resource Technologies (Ex. SW-169, Fig. 36). But, at
5	trial, Dr. Friday admitted that Mr. Harvey made no reference to fishing in marine water. Farmer
6	Decl., Ex. 4 at 67:2-4. ³ At trial there was no evidence of a single instance of Stillaguamish marine
7	fishing using any of the techniques described by Dr. Friday.
8	Mr. Harvey's actual evidence (Ex. SW-176) very clearly places Stillaguamish fishing only
9	on the river and its forks. That testimony is consistent with the 1926 affidavit of James Dorsey,

Mr. Harvey's actual evidence (Ex. SW-176) very clearly places Stillaguamish fishing only on the river and its forks. That testimony is consistent with the 1926 affidavit of James Dorsey, who affirmed that he has "spent his entire life on the Stillaguamish River" and describes the Stillaguamish territory as "confined for the most part to the aforesaid Stillaguamish River, both branches and tributaries." Ex. SG-071. These tribal voices are in line with Hancock's account of his 1850 trips up the Stillaguamish River, which places the Stillaguamish people upriver and makes no mention of any saltwater presence, let alone use.

Among the over 150 trial exhibits, there is no evidence that Stillaguamish regularly fished Port Susan; this U&A claim must be denied.

7. Stillaguamish Travel to Victoria Does Not Establish U&A in Deception Pass.

Dr. Friday's penchant for speculation is epitomized by his incredible opinion that Stillaguamish regularly fished in the marine waters of Deception Pass. Dr. Friday's conclusion is based on two references to travel by Stillaguamish to Victoria. *See* Farmer Decl., Ex. 3 at 151:10-152:7 (citing Sally Oxstien's journal (Ex. SG-79) and Esther Ross' testimony (Ex. SG-100)). Neither writing includes <u>any</u> mention of fishing. Neither even states that Stillaguamish actually traveled to Victoria via Deception Pass. Dr. Friday's speculation that they did so (*see id.* at

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³ The evidence at trial strongly suggests that Dr. Friday (who is not a fishing expert or a biologist) misplaced his reliance on shellfish and flounder fishing accounts. The evidence suggests that those activities occurred at Florence—upstream from Stanwood. SG-137; Farmer Decl., Ex. 4 at 41:3-23.

1 157:15-16 ("the route to Victoria would have been most logical to go through Deception Pass")) discloses an apparent ignorance of the actual hazards of traveling, let alone canoe fishing, in 2 3 Deception Pass, where tidal flows make merely moving through Deception Pass in a modern 4 "powered" vessel hazardous except during a short period every six hours. Nothing in Oxstien or 5 Ross' accounts suggests that the travel was regular; indeed, it is equally likely that both writings 6 refer to the same, single, and therefore noteworthy trading trip. 7 The evidence strongly suggests that, on whatever route they took, the Stillaguamish 8 traveled solely to trade. The evidence refers to a canoe filled with hides to trade for guns and 9 blankets. There is no reference to fishing, and there was little or no room for fish or fishing gear. 10 Ex. SG-100 ("My people said they traded. They went in canoes to Victoria, and traded their hides 11 for groceries."); Ex. SG-79 ("Then we found out they were buying hides at Victoria so we would 12 load up our canoe and go there and trade our hides for blankets and guns "). 13 Dr. Friday admitted on cross-examination that the authorities on which he relied to 14 conclude that Stillaguamish fished in the marine waters at Deception Pass do not document fishing 15 by the Stillaguamish or the route they took to Victoria: 16 Okay. Now, in Exhibit SG-79, Sally Oxstien does not mention Deception Pass at all; correct? 17 A. No, she does not. 18 Q. She does not mention traveling in Skagit Bay; correct? 19 A. No, she does not. 20 She does not identify the route taken when traveling to Victoria; correct? Q. 21 No, she does not. A. 22 She does not mention fishing while traveling; correct? O. 23 No, she does not. A. 24 Q. She does not mention a method of fishing while traveling; correct? 25 A. No, she does not.

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1	Q. She does not mention eating fish or cooking fish while traveling to Victoria; correct?				
2	A		No, she does not.		
3	Farmer Decl., Ex. 3 at 153:15-154:6.				
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5			And in this passage of Esther Ross's testimony that you're relying on, Dr.		
6	F	riday,	Esther Ross does not mention Deception Pass; correct?		
7	A	Λ.	Correct.		
8	Ç) .	She doesn't mention fishing in Skagit Bay?		
9	A	Λ.	Correct.		
10	Q. She doesn't identify any place that they that her people stopped when traveling to Victoria; correct?				
11	A	۸.	Correct.		
13	Ç) .	She doesn't mention fishing while traveling; correct?		
14	A	۸.	Correct.		
15	Q. She doesn't mention the number of times that her people traveled to Victoria; correct?				
16	A	۸.	No, she does not mention the number.		
17	Id. at 156:21-157:9.				
18	Stillaguamish's claim to the marine waters of Deception Pass is based on sheer, and highly				
19	improbable, speculation.				
20	III. CONCLUSION				
21	At trial, Dr. Friday testified that Stillaguamish traveled to Olympia, Fort Nisqually, Port				
22	Gamble, Seattle, Lummi, Guemes, Saratoga Passage, Penn Cove, Holmes Harbor, Skagit Bay, and				
23	Deception Pass. He speculated that the Stillaguamish were familiar with all of these waters and				
24	their resources and that they therefore <i>must</i> have regularly fished while they traveled. There is no				
25	evidence of actual fishing at and before treaty time at <u>any</u> of these locations. Speculation that if a				
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1	tribe travelled, they necessarily fished in a manner sufficient to establish U&A would inevitably					
2	lead to a reopening of over 50 years of case precedent. Stillaguamish's request to expand its U&A					
3	should be dismissed with prejudice.					
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5	DATED this 28 th day of March, 2022.					
6	UPPER SKAGIT INDIAN TRIBE	HARRIGAN LEYH FARMER & THOMSEN LLP				
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