

**STATEMENT BY JIM HARP TO THE PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
REGARDING THE 2000 OCEAN TREATY TROLL FISHERY**

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Mr. Chairman,

As I indicated in my previous statements, the treaty tribes have been working on a package of fishery restrictions that meets this year's resource constraints and fairly distributes the burden of conservation.

- The fisheries that the tribes have proposed thus far I believe are consistent with this year's resource conditions, and take into account the need for each tribe to have some fishing opportunity in its area.
- At the appropriate time, I will offer a motion for treaty troll quotas of 20,000 coho and 25,500 chinook.
- This year the tribes have put forth a proposal for treaty troll quotas that, while not the preference of any tribe, provide some reasonable opportunity for all of the affected parties and meet the conservation needs for Queets coho. The treaty troll quotas represent a balance of the treaty rights of the Makah, Quinault, and other coastal tribes, as well as the four Columbia River Tribes and the Puget Sound tribes given the conservation constraints of the many salmon stocks in 2000.
- The proposed quotas for the ocean treaty Indian troll fishery along with the rest of the ocean fishery package meets the ESA considerations for Snake River chinook, OCN coho, and Puget Sound Chinook.
- The quota meets the commitment by the ocean tribes to the Columbia River Tribes in 1988 to not increase impacts on stocks of concern.
- The quota levels also meet the coho management objectives for 2000 for the Washington coastal stocks.

- The proposed quotas also meet the commitments made under the Pacific Salmon Treaty.
- The quota levels have been significantly reduced from Option 1. (Chinook is 15% less and coho is 48% less)
- The impacts from the proposed treaty troll quotas are for the 2000 fishery and should not become a “standard” for future years.
- This proposal for the treaty troll fishery is part of an evolving, comprehensive package that includes in-river and Puget Sound fisheries.
- The ocean treaty troll fishery presents a limited opportunity for us to exercise our treaty rights in the ocean this year. One must remember, the treaty tribes must exercise their treaty rights in their established U& A’s, so the treaty troll tribes cannot simply move their fisheries to alternative locations in order to reduce impacts.

Thank you.