

Statement of Jim Harp
on the Preliminary Definition of 2001 Management Options
to the Pacific Fishery Management Council
March 6, 2001

Mr. Chairman, I would like make a brief statement regarding the status of the salmon resource in 2001 and the tribes' current thinking about a range of options for the ocean treaty troll fishery.

- The forecasts for coho on the Washington coast for both wild and hatchery stocks are significantly greater than recent years. In Puget Sound we are predicting significant increases in wild stock abundance over the 2000 expectations. We are also encouraged that the forecasts for the OPI stocks have increased. We believe that these forecasts allow for some moderate increases in ocean harvest levels this year even while taking into consideration the needs of the OCN stock.
- For chinook, the tule hatchery stocks should provide some harvest opportunity in the ocean fisheries this year. However, some important contributing stocks continue to be depressed. We will continue to live up to the commitment that we made in 1988 to not increase our impacts on Columbia River chinook stocks of concern. Listed chinook stocks will require continued attention to work out a package of fisheries that meet the ESA requirements for these stocks.
- The tribes still have concerns about our ability to appropriately analyze and manage selective fisheries, but we appreciate the reports that WDFW and ODFW have been providing on the monitoring and sampling of their selective fisheries. We encourage the states to continue rigorous monitoring and sampling of these fisheries and to continue discussion on this issue with the tribes.
- We are beginning the process of establishing, cooperatively with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, a package of fisheries that will ensure acceptable levels of escapement for natural stocks of concern. We have joint Tribal/State agreement on specific 2001 management objectives.

I offer the following range of preliminary options for the ocean treaty troll fishery for compilation and analysis by the Salmon Technical Team with the understanding that this is only the first step towards finalizing options this week to be sent out for public review.

Treaty Troll Options

	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Chinook</u>
Option 1	90,000	37,000
Option 2	90,000	35,000
Option 3	70,000	35,000

For chinook, 50% would be taken in the May/June chinook-only fishery, and 50% would be taken in the July/August/September all-species fishery.