

B.C.
Supplemental PSC Comments
from Jim Harp

**Report of Jim Harp
On Pacific Salmon Treaty Activities**

April 3, 2001

Since the March PFMC meeting there have been continued communications with Canada regarding the development of our respective fisheries plans for 2001. On March 26, Tribal and Washington State fishery managers met with representatives from Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans to review each country's salmon forecasts and fisheries outlooks for 2001.

The Tribal/State co-managers reported to Canada on our progress to date in developing fisheries plans through the PFMC and North of Falcon process. We described the range of options for ocean fisheries that were being considered by the PFMC, and the level of fishing that is anticipated inside Puget Sound. We told the Canadians that our boarder area fisheries were being planned in response to an expected overall increase in abundance of coho and the need to conserve Puget Sound chinook.

The Canadians also shared their forecasts for chinook, coho, chum, sockeye and pink salmon for 2001. They said their fisheries would be primarily influenced by their need to address critical stock concerns for West Coast Vancouver Island chinook and upper Fraser River and Georgia Strait coho. They explained that their pre-season fisheries plans would be finalized in mid-May. They did, however, provide information concerning their expected fisheries and catch levels.

We then discussed the need to better synchronize our respective fisheries planning processes in the future so that we could more easily address each other's stock concerns when developing our fishing plans.

The Pacific Salmon Commission is scheduled to convene a negotiating team in Vancouver B.C. during the week of April 23 to develop a southern coho management plan. This plan would address the management and allocation of coho in fisheries along the boarder of Washington and British Columbia. If negotiations are successful, this management plan is anticipated to be effective beginning in 2002.