

**Statement of Jim Harp
on the Preliminary Definition of 2002 Management Options
to the Pacific Fishery Management Council
March 12, 2002**

Mr. Chairman, I would like make a brief statement regarding the status of the salmon resource in 2002 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 generally about the same as last year, and are relatively healthy. In Puget Sound wild stock abundance is expected to be down from 2001 for several key wild management units. We are aware that the forecasts for the OPI stocks have decreased dramatically from last year. These conditions present some challenges in shaping 2002 ocean fisheries, however, we believe that these forecasts will allow for some moderate ocean harvest levels this year while taking into consideration the needs of the OCN and Puget Sound stocks.
- For chinook, the tule hatchery stocks should provide a significant increase in 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 some concerns about our ability to appropriately analyze and manage our salmon populations under selective fishery regimes, but we appreciate the efforts that WDFW and ODFW have made in monitoring and sampling of their selective fisheries and the reports they have provided us. 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 2002 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	70,000	60,000
Option 2	60,000	50,000
Option 3	50,000	40,000