

**TESTIMONY OF
THE COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY TRIBES
BEFORE PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
April 8, 2003
Vancouver, WA**

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Council. My name is Harold Blackwolf Sr. I am a member of the Fish and Wildlife Committee of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and a treaty fisherman on the Columbia River. I am here today to provide Testimony on behalf of the four Columbia River treaty tribes: the Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Nez Perce tribes.

The Tribes still question the wisdom of proceeding with a selective fishery in Area 5/6 of the Straight of Juan de Fuca. We have not had an opportunity to review potential impacts from this fishery on Columbia River stocks. We hope to be able to do so soon.

We are concerned along with others that there is not a forecast for Snake River Fall Chinook yet. It appears unlikely that a forecast can be developed in time for this years Council process. There are still technical problems with the run reconstructions for the past three years. Tribal staff will continue to work with state and federal staff to solve these problems and develop methods to provide these forecasts on a timely basis.

It appears that the tribes and states are going to be able to reach agreement on a plan for 2003 Fall Season Columbia River fisheries with the package of ocean fisheries currently under consideration. We hope to conclude this agreement soon so we have more time to devote to solving long term management issues as well as working toward salmon recovery.

This concludes my statement. Thank You.