

**Statement of Jim Harp
on the Preliminary Definition of 2004 Management Options
to the Pacific Fishery Management Council
March 9, 2004**

Mr. Chairman, I would like make a brief statement regarding the status of the salmon resource in 2004 and the tribes' current thinking about a range of options for the ocean treaty troll fishery.

- The forecasts for coho on the Washington coast and Puget Sound for both wild and hatchery stocks are relatively healthy. We believe that these forecasts will allow for some moderate harvest this year even while taking into consideration the needs of the OCN stock and Upper Fraser coho.
- For chinook, the tule hatchery stocks should provide some harvest opportunity in the ocean fisheries this year. We continue to live up to the commitment that we made in 1988 to not increase our impacts on Columbia River chinook stocks of concern. Additional listed chinook stocks will require continued attention to work out 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 continue communication 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 2004 management objectives for Puget Sound and Washington coastal □hinook and coho salmon.