

**STATEMENT BY JIM HARP TO THE PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
REGARDING THE 2004 OCEAN TREATY TROLL FISHERY
Thursday, April 8, 2004**

Mr. Chairman,

As I indicated in my previous statements, the Treaty tribes have been working on a package of fisheries that meets resource constraints of this year's forecasted abundances and fairly distributes the burden of conservation.

- The fisheries that the tribes have proposed thus far are consistent with this year's resource conditions and take into account the need for each tribe to have some fishing opportunity in its area.
- At the appropriate time, I will offer a Motion for Treaty troll chinook and coho quotas.
- This year the tribes have put forth a proposal for Treaty troll quotas that provide some reasonable opportunity for all of the affected parties and meet the conservation needs for coho and chinook. The Treaty troll quotas represent a balance of the Treaty rights of the coastal tribes, as well as the four Columbia River Tribes and the Puget Sound tribes given the conservation constraints of the many salmon stocks in 2004.
- The proposed quotas for the ocean Treaty Indian troll fishery meets the ESA considerations for Snake River chinook, OCN coho, and Puget Sound Chinook.
- The quota meets the commitment by the ocean tribes to the Columbia River Tribes in 1988 to not increase impacts on Columbia River stocks of concern.
- The quota levels also meet the coho management objectives for 2004 for the Washington coastal stocks.
- The proposed quotas also meet the commitments made under the Pacific Salmon Treaty.
- The impacts from the proposed Treaty troll quotas are for the 2004 fishery and should not become a standard for future years.
- This proposal for the Treaty troll fishery is part of an evolving, comprehensive package that includes Washington coastal in-river and Puget Sound fisheries.
- The ocean Treaty troll fishery presents an opportunity to exercise our Treaty rights in the ocean this year. One must remember, the Treaty tribes must exercise their Treaty rights in their established Usual & Accustomed (U&A) fishing areas, so the Treaty troll tribes cannot simply move their fisheries to alternative locations in order to reduce impacts.