

Testimony of Russell Svec, for the Makah Tribe

Mr. Chairman, members of the Council, I am Russell Svec, fishery program manager for the Makah Tribe. With me here today is Hap Leon, our fisheries biometrician.

We have considered and discussed ranges for the treaty ocean troll fishery. We have reached agreement with the other coastal tribes on coho options, which we would like to see modeled at:

60,000 for the high option,
55,000 for the middle option; and
40,000 for the low option.

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For chinook fisheries, we are proposing a range of:

60,000 for the high option,
50,000 for the middle option; and
30,000 for the low option.

The ocean chinook fisheries this year will be driven by Snake River fall chinook. We recognize our obligation to conserve that critical stock, but our initial modeling has shown that we can remain within the NOAA guidelines for Snake River with the range that we have proposed.

We also recognize that some of the larger stocks that contribute to our fishery are down from last year, but they are down by fairly small amounts. We think that modest reductions – not drastic ones – are in order to match the modest reductions in chinook stocks.

We understand that the state of Washington is also reducing their options from last year's range, and we appreciate our co-manager's efforts at conservation. It is important, however, to point out that there is no direct linkage between treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries in the ocean. The treaty/non-treaty accounting covers the broad suite of fisheries along the Washington coast and in Puget Sound. Although we have shared conservation concerns, the treaty and non-treaty fleets have different fishing opportunities and different objectives in managing their fisheries.

In summary, we believe that the range of 60,000 for the high option, 50,000 for the middle option, and 30,000 for the low option can be modeled to examine impacts on the driver stocks, and that through the PFMC/North of Falcon process we can find an optimal treaty troll quota within this range.

Thank you Mr. Chairman for your time and for considering our proposals here.