

**TESTIMONY OF  
THE COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY TRIBES  
BEFORE PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
April 5, 2005  
Tacoma, WA**

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Council. My name is Bruce Jim. 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.

Meeting the conservation objectives for key stocks is a critical task of the Council. The Columbia River tribes remind the Council of the need to meet the Snake River Fall Chinook Index of 0.7 with the package of ocean fishery recommendations. We do not think it appropriate for the state of Washington to implement a selective sport fishery for Chinook in Areas 5 and 6 of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This fishery handles too many unmarked fish and presents too great of a risk to the Coded Wire Tag system. Selective fisheries are not an appropriate way to encourage conservation and rebuilding.

While the tribes continue to urge the Council to use conservatism in recommending ocean fisheries that impact Columbia River stocks, we would also like to discuss an issue with more long term implications for fisheries. The tribes are very concerned about the 2005 Columbia River water supply conditions and the federal government's plan for river management of the Federal Columbia River Power System for the 2005 salmon migrations. Low flows are expected to have adverse effects on outmigrating salmon which will in turn affect future fisheries. While 2005 water supplies are short, there are measures that the federal operators can and should implement to increase Columbia River salmon stock survivals and decrease water particle and fish migration times through the hydrosystem. These include provision for additional spill at all federal dams, and acquisition of additional water from upper basin storage to augment flows, especially during the peaks of the spring and summer migrations. The Council should encourage the federal hydrosystem operators to provide as much flow and spill as possible to benefit outmigrating fish in 2005.

We have previously told the federal hydrosystem operators about our concerns with respect to load following cycles that result in flow fluctuations that entrap and strand

juvenile salmon, particularly in the Hanford Reach. For example, an estimated over 2 million fall chinook juveniles were lost in the Hanford Reach in 2001 from these operations. Fluctuations in the Hanford Reach should be substantially reduced or eliminated, particularly over the next 6 weeks in order to protect Hanford fall Chinook, a stock of critical to ocean and in-river fisheries.

This concludes my statement. Thank You.