

Statement of Jim Harp
on the Preliminary Definition of 2006 Management Options
to the Pacific Fishery Management Council
March 7, 2006

Mr. Chairman, I would like make a brief statement regarding the status of the salmon resource in 2006 and the tribes' current thinking about a range of options for the ocean treaty troll fishery.

- ⑥ The forecasts for coho on the Washington coast and Puget Sound for both wild and hatchery stocks are slightly less than last year but relatively healthy. We believe that these forecasts will allow for some moderate harvest this year even while taking into consideration the needs of the Lower Columbia River natural coho and Canadian Interior Fraser (Thompson) coho.
- ⑥ 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 the Columbia River tribes to not increase our impacts on Columbia River Chinook stocks of concern. However, additional listed Chinook stocks will require continued attention to devise fisheries that meet the ESA requirements for these stocks.
- ⑥ The tribes continue to have concerns about our ability to appropriately analyze and manage selective fisheries. We encourage the states to continue rigorous monitoring and sampling of these fisheries and to continue communication on this issue with the tribes.
- ⑥ The Washington tribes, in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, are beginning the process of establishing a package of fisheries that will ensure acceptable levels of harvest of natural stocks of concern. In addition, we have joint Tribal/State agreement on specific 2006 management objectives for Puget Sound and Washington coastal Chinook and coho salmon (They will be jointly presented to the Council under this agenda item).

I offer the following range of preliminary options for the ocean Treaty troll fishery for compilation and analysis by the Salmon Technical Team with the understanding that this is only the first step towards finalizing options this week that will be adopted by the Council to be sent out for public review.

Treaty Troll Options

	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Chinook</u>
Option I	45,000	50,000
Option II	35,000	33,200
Option III	25,000	25,000

For Chinook, Option I to be modeled with 30,000 taken in the May/June Chinook directed fishery and 20,000 would be taken in the July/August/September all-species fishery. Option II to be modeled with 20,000 taken in the May/June Chinook directed fishery 13,200 in the July/August/September all-species fishery. Option III to be modeled with 12,000 taken in the May/June Chinook directed fishery and 13,000 in the July/August/September all-species fishery.

PFMC
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