

**TESTIMONY OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY TRIBES
BEFORE PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
March 10, 2016, Sacramento, CA**

Good day 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 fisher on the Columbia River. I am here with Wilbur Slockish, Raphael Bill, and Herb Jackson to provide testimony on behalf of the four Columbia River treaty tribes: the Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Nez Perce tribes.

As we begin the process of setting this year's ocean fisheries, we would like to offer a few comments. The Columbia River Tribes come to these Council meetings each year to keep track of the ocean fisheries which catch Columbia River fish and to make sure people understand the efforts the tribes make to restore and rebuild upriver populations.

Ocean conditions have been very unusual and likely were a major factor in the failure of last year's coho return. Fish returning to the Columbia were smaller than normal sized. We can't know for sure what the impact these ocean conditions will have on this year's runs. We think it worthwhile for the Council to take a precautionary approach to setting ocean fisheries this year because of these uncertainties.

Last year we had very low flows and high temperatures in the Columbia River. These types of conditions reduce survival for both juvenile and adult fish. While we have better snow pack this year, we don't know when it will melt or how long it will last. Difficult environmental conditions may continue to complicate our management into the future.

We also would like to raise some concerns with fishery management to the north. We regard uncertainties regarding both the planning and management of last year's northern fisheries as a critical process failure. In an effort to reduce uncertainties about this year's northern fisheries the four Columbia River Tribes support the use of the revised PSC Chinook Technical Committee Chinook Model for setting allowable catches in northern (PSC) fisheries.

Even though we have had large returns of upper Columbia summer chinook and upriver fall chinook in recent years, we don't think we have passed too many fish to escapement. Good escapement is necessary to fully seed spawning habitat. We are trying to increase run sizes in the Columbia.

This year we have brought a short presentation outlining some of the ways we use hatchery fish in our rebuilding efforts. This is not a complete list of our programs, but highlight a few that provide benefits to all of us. We are trying to restore these salmon for all user groups. We would like to proceed with these slides now.

Thank you.