

**Testimony of Russell Svec, Fishery Director for the Makah Tribe
March 10, 2016**

Good afternoon Madam Chair and members of the Council. My name is Russell Svec. I'm the Fishery Director of the Makah Tribe. With me here is Hap Leon, our fishery biometrician. We thank you for this opportunity to present to you the Makah Tribe's proposed range of options for chinook and coho for the 2016 treaty ocean troll fishery.

Certainly, we recognize that many of the Puget Sound and Washington coastal coho stocks are forecast at critical levels of abundance this year. At the same time, many chinook stocks that contribute to our fishery are at good healthy harvestable levels. For that reason, we are proposing a range of options designed to reduce impacts on coho relative to last year's quotas, while still allowing tribal fishermen to catch the more abundant chinook stocks.

Understanding that this is the first step in the pre-season planning process, we propose the following range of options:

For chinook:

A low option of	40,000
A middle option of	50,000
A high option of	60,000

For coho:

A low option of	zero
A middle option of	20,000
A high option of	40,000

Over the next month, we expect that we'll be analyzing these and possibly other options to compare their impacts as well as their benefits. For now, I'd like to focus on the low option.

We recognize that if the low coho option of zero is paired with low chinook option, there will be some incidental impacts to coho, and we want to address that issue. We've already done some preliminary modeling, and we've looked at the impacts of our low options on Puget Sound and Washington coastal coho. If we have a fishery targeting chinook, while releasing coho, and using time-area management and gear restrictions, we could expect incidental coho mortalities in the neighborhood of about 1,500 fish.

Those are the impacts on the fish. But we are not only managing the resource. We are managing fisheries, and those fisheries include the people who catch the fish. We have to consider the people as well as the fish.

So when we consider the people, then what do these incidental impacts get us? They allow the treaty troll fleet to fish chinook in July and August. They support over 100 fishing families in Neah Bay alone, in addition to others in other tribal communities. They support the economy of a community at the end of the road, where there are very few other economic opportunities besides fishing. They support the treaty rights and the traditions and cultural values of a tribe that has made its living from the ocean for thousands of years.

In our estimation, this is a worthwhile trade-off for those incidental mortalities.