

Quinault, Quileute and Hoh Tribe Joint Testimony on the Initial Range of Ocean Options for the 2016 Treaty Troll Fishery.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on agenda item E.4. Identification of Management Objectives and Preliminary Definition of 2016 Salmon Management Alternatives.

The Council must comply with obligations to provide for opportunity for treaty protected fisheries for Coastal Coho as required under Hoh v. Baldrige while developing ocean salmon fishing alternatives. All of the Coho salmon stocks along the Washington coast and in Puget Sound are forecast at critical low abundance this year. The Council must consider the uncertainty of salmon survival conditions and resulting impacts on the reliability of the planning models that are relied upon to estimate stock distribution and fishery impacts. A precautionary management plan must be adopted for 2016 salmon fisheries.

The Quinault Treaty Area (QTA) Tribes offer the following range of alternatives for the 2016 ocean Treaty Troll fishery.

Chinook:

Low- 30,000

Mid- 35,000

High- 45,000

All three alternatives should be modeled with a 2/3 – 1/3 split between the May-June Chinook directed fishery and the July-August All-species fishery. The All-species fishery will close on August 31st.

Coho:

Low- 0

Mid- 7,500

High- 10,000

Thank you for considering our testimony. We are available to answer any questions you may have this week.