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## **PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION**

May 22, 2008

### **Press Release – New Bilateral Agreement**

The Pacific Salmon Commission is pleased to announce that it has recommended a new bilateral agreement for the conservation and harvest sharing of Pacific salmon to the Governments of Canada and the United States. The product of nearly 18 months of negotiations, the agreement represents a major step forward in science-based conservation and sustainable harvest sharing of the salmon resource between Canada and the United States of America. If approved by the respective governments, the new fishing regimes would be in place from the beginning of 2009 through the end of 2018.

The new agreement will contribute to the long term conservation and sustainable harvest of salmon stocks originating in Canada and the United States. It covers fisheries occurring along more than a thousand miles of coast line and inland waters ranging from central Oregon in the south to southeast Alaska to the north. These fisheries provide the livelihood for many fishermen, are the life blood of many coastal communities, and have been integral to the cultures of First Nations and Indian Tribes for centuries.

The agreement is intended to ensure the conservation and fair harvest sharing of five species of salmon comprised of thousands of separate stocks that range from healthy and abundant to threatened and declining. Coordinating the management of the fisheries among numerous management authorities spanning two countries, one province, one territory, four states, and dozens of First Nations and Indian Tribes presents one of the most complex fishery management challenges in the world.

I think we can all be proud of this new agreement” said Dr. Jeffrey Koenings, current Chair of the Commission. “This agreement will contribute to the massive efforts underway throughout the U.S. Pacific Northwest and Canada to restore and sustain the salmon resource, as well as bring greater stability and certainty to fisheries throughout the Treaty area,” Koenings said.

“From my position as Executive Secretary, it has been particularly gratifying to observe the Commission’s progress throughout these difficult negotiations, and to see that the Commission now functions well enough to achieve this enormous success,” said Don Kowal, Executive Secretary of the Pacific Salmon Commission. “There was a time, prior to the 1999 Agreement, when this kind of success simply was not achievable by the Commission. The new agreement is designed to provide

for effective conservation of the resource, and to address the interests of the people affected by it,” said Kowal.

Pursuant to the terms of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, the agreement will now be transmitted to the governments of Canada and the United States of America with a recommendation for its formal approval. The approval process in Canada will involve consultations with First Nations, and other stakeholders. Because some of the affected salmon stocks are listed under the United States Endangered Species Act (ESA) approval by the United States is contingent on satisfying the legal requirements of that law.

The final step in the approval process involves the exchange of diplomatic notes between Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and the United States’ Secretary of State. The intent is that this step will be concluded prior to the end of the year. Each country’s domestic management authorities would then implement the agreement beginning in 2009.

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For more information, visit the Pacific Salmon Commission website:

<http://www.psc.org/>