

ROLE OF THE KLAMATH FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (KFMC)

The Klamath Act authorized \$21,000,000 in 1986 to be appropriated over twenty years, and it established two federal advisory committees: the Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force (Task Force) and the Klamath Fishery Management Council (KFMC).

The Task Force has worked toward restoring Klamath River fisheries by funding watershed restoration planning and education, fisheries research and monitoring, fish stock enhancement, and on-the-ground habitat restoration. Over its tenure, the Task Force has increasingly supported local watershed groups to bring together landowners and other natural resource interests in each of the five sub-basins of the Lower Klamath River Basin.

The Klamath Fishery Management Council (KFMC) is an 11-member federal advisory committee consisting of representatives from commercial and recreational ocean fisheries, the in-river sport fishing community, tribal fisheries, the California Department of Fish and Game, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Department of the Interior. The KFMC makes specific recommendations to the Pacific Fishery Management Council, California Fish and Game Commission, Oregon Department of Fish Wildlife, Yurok Tribal Fisheries, and Hoopa Tribal Fisheries. The Klamath River Technical Advisory Team (KRTAT) provides biological and statistical expertise to aid in advising the KFMC on the status of anadromous fish stocks of the Klamath Basin and the impacts of fishery management options. This includes the development of annual projections of Chinook salmon stock size and the development of fishery models, such as the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM) for use by fishery managers in the management of Klamath River Chinook salmon. Membership of the KRTAT consists of individuals from entities represented on the KFMC.

The Klamath Act has not been reauthorized and funding for the KFMC and the Task Force is scheduled to expire September 30, 2006. Many of the functions performed by the KFMC and KRTAT are instrumental in the Council's salmon management process and the Council should consider the means for accomplishing them (e.g., the technical work of run reconstruction and abundance forecasts, and the policy work of recommending allocation among states and fishery sectors for annual management measures). In addition, the research and monitoring work funded through the Task Force is critical to maintaining the data quality necessary to do the technical analyses on which informed policy decisions are based.

Curt Melcher, Chair of the KFMC, will brief the Council on the status of the KFMC and the functions relevant to the Council's salmon management process.

Council Task:

- 1. Discuss implications of salmon management in the absence of the KFMC.**
- 2. Provide guidance for achieving KFMC tasks in the Council and other processes.**

Reference Materials:

None.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. KFMC Recommendations
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion and Guidance

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PFMC
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