

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBAL COMMENTS FOR
FINAL ACTION ON 2008 SALMON MANAGEMENT MEASURES

My Name is Michael Orcutt and I am the director for the Hoopa Valley Tribe's Fisheries Department.

- (1) The Hoopa Valley Tribe is greatly concerned that the Council's proposed criterion for ending the Klamath River Fall Chinook Overfishing Concern is an inadequate conservation standard. We have provided previous testimony detailing our concerns.
- (2) In the event that the Council fails to adopt Recommendation 1, as written in Salmon Technical Team's (STT's) March 2008 Klamath River Fall Chinook Overfishing Review (35,000 natural escapement floor would need to be exceeded for **three** consecutive years in four), the Tribe will manage its fishery to clear the 35,000 floor.
- (3) In the event that Council adopts Recommendation 1 today without exception as specified in the STT Report. The Hoopa Valley Tribe will manage its fishery consistent with meeting the 40,700 adult fall Chinook maximum sustainable yield escapement level.
- (4) Postponing a decision on this matter may not provide adequate time for Klamath tribal fisheries to adjust their management process.
- (5) Questions were raised earlier in week about conservation rationale by Tribes advocating a lowered escapement level than that contemplated in the present options. Tribes need to maximize harvest opportunities when abundance allows. Lacking adoption of Recommendation 1 by the Council would shift the conservation burden on Tribes in 2008, with no commitment by other fisheries to share this burden in 2009.

PFMC
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