

Agenda Item D.3.d
Supplemental Hoopa Valley Tribe Report
March 2009

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBAL COMMENTS ON
Identification of Management Objectives and Preliminary Definition of 2009
Salmon Management Options

Introducing Mr. Billy Matilton and Mr. George Kautsky of Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department.

The Klamath Fall Chinook remain under the heightened protection of a rebuilding plan for a Council managed stock subject to Overfishing Concern.

Allowance for fall fisheries (“Credit Card Fisheries”) in any year poses a measure of management risk. A primary unknown is whether fall fishing impacts will fall within the allowable harvest levels in the following spring? The 2008 Council document: “Assessment of Factors Affecting Natural Area Escapement Shortfall of Klamath River Fall Chinook in 2004-2006” recommends that, “During periods of stock rebuilding, fall fishing opportunity in areas impacting KRFC abundance should be restricted.” The effect of these fall fisheries on future fisheries is problematic in any year. Therefore, given the heightened concern for KRFC conservation, we would advise against allowing any fall fisheries in 2009 in areas where KRFC may be impacted.

Consistent with Recommendation 9 of the “Assessment of Factors Affecting Natural Area Escapement Shortfall of Klamath River Fall Chinook in 2004-2006” report, we urge Co-Managers to pursue 25% Constant Fractional Marking coded-wire-tagging program be implemented at Iron Gate Hatchery. The facility releases between 5-6 million juvenile chinook annually and marking rates presently vary inter-annually and are typically well below 10% of production. Implementation of a 25% CFM strategy at IGH would improve management precision by improving estimates of contribution of Klamath chinook to fisheries. HVT pioneered CFM at Trinity River Hatchery over ten years ago, and the approach has recently been introduced to Central Valley hatcheries.