

Agenda Item D.7.c
Supplemental Comments of Hoopa Valley Tribe
March 2009

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBAL COMMENTS ON
Adoption of 2009 Management Options for Public Review

Mr. Michael Orcutt and Mr. Billy Matilton of the Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department present the following comments relative to Adoption of 2009 Management Options for Public Review.

The Tribe is concerned over the future of marine fisheries dependent upon both Sacramento and Klamath river salmon. The depressed returns of fall chinook to Sacramento River are disturbing to the entire fishing community. While the Hoopa Valley Tribe is dependent upon Klamath chinook in particular, we cannot ignore the profound significance of curtailed fisheries off the coasts of California and Southern Oregon as a result of habitat loss. The Trinity River is artificially linked to the Central Valley through the Trinity River Division which implies our participation in determining the future of California water management.

Short-term solutions for the reduced survival of Central Valley fish stocks need to be the focus of state and federal resource managers. Longer-term solutions (e.g. California water supply) need to be managed in a manner that ensures recovery of California fisheries. We hope to work collaboratively with non-Tribal fishers to ensure a consistent voice for sustainable fisheries.

Reviewing the options before the Council, we acknowledge the Council's efforts to address our concerns to ensure full utilization of harvestable Klamath fall chinook.

In the ensuing weeks, the Tribe will consider its 2009 objectives including the possibility for elevating tribal harvest levels in the event that the river recreational fishery fails to fully utilize the balance of the non-tribal share. We are inviting the participation of our state and federal co-managers in this regard.

The Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department continues to develop information necessary for managing Klamath spring chinook. Here again, participation by co-managers would ensure a comprehensive approach to future management of this stock. Presently, we note that several options for both troll and recreational fisheries include spring 2010 opportunities with the potential of impacting Klamath spring Chinook. We advocate evaluation of these impacts in the context of conservation and fishery allocation of this stock.