Introducing Mr. Michael Orcutt, Director, Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department.

The PFMC is no doubt aware of the recent completion of the Klamath River Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA) and Klamath River Restoration Agreement (KBRA). The Hoopa Valley Tribe has determined that it cannot support either of these agreements as currently written. While wholly supportive of dam removal, the Tribe believes that on balance, the balance struck in these two agreements would weigh too heavily upon the future wellbeing of Klamath anadromous fish stocks while providing no guarantee that dams would actually be removed. Moreover, the Tribe has concluded that these agreements place the trustee in a very tenuous position with regard to the protection of Tribal sovereignty in the event a failed process led to fishery declines and ultimately compromised our fishing rights.

With regard to the 2009 season, the tribal fishery resulted in a near full utilization of allocable harvest while meeting an elevated conservation standard of 40,700 naturally spawning adult fall Chinook.

The Hoopa Valley Tribal Council (HVTC) retains sole authority for management of the Tribe’s fishery to meet the purposes of subsistence, ceremony, and commerce.

The HVTC’s Fisheries Department closely monitors the harvest of Chinook by its membership as well as that by recreational fishers in Trinity River. Annually, these data are shared with co-managers to enable comprehensive co-management of Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC).

For 2010, KRFC remain under the heightened protection of a rebuilding plan for a Council managed stock subject to an Overfishing Concern.

The 2010 forecasted abundance of KRFC is sufficient to accommodate limited fisheries while again meeting the elevated conservation standard of 40,700 adult natural area spawners.