HOOPA VALLEY TRIBAL COMMENTS ON
Identification of Management Objectives and Preliminary Definition of 2008 Salmon Management Options

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

Hoopa Valley Tribe offers some brief remarks as a point of departure for anticipating season management for 2008 salmon fisheries.

(1) Convergence of an overfishing concern, recent adoption of Amendment 15 to the FMP, and historic management and conservation standards for Klamath fall chinook results in considerable ambiguity relative to 2008 management objectives. We strongly urge that PFMC define clear management objectives for 2008 in terms of either 2/3 brood reduction, clearing the 35,000 natural adult spawner floor, reserving an escapement of 40,700 adult natural spawners, or pursuit of De minimis fisheries or some combination of these approaches.

(2) The conservation objective for Klamath fall chinook contributing to 2008 salmon fisheries must include that no less than 35,000 adult fish escape fisheries to spawn in natural areas.

(3) Allocation to tribal fisheries shall be no less than 50% of the harvestable surplus identified under any option.

(4) Non-tribal fisheries have already harvested an estimated 4,500 adult Klamath fall chinook in late season 2007 “credit card” fisheries. This represents the initial stage for allocation to tribal fisheries in 2008.