

**COMMISSIONERS**  
**Mike Chrisman**, President  
Visalia  
**Sam Schuchat**, Vice President  
Oakland  
**Richard T. Thieriot**  
San Francisco  
**Michael Flores**  
Sacramento

**GRAY DAVIS**  
Governor



**ROBERT R. TREANOR**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
1416 Ninth Street  
Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090  
(916) 653-4899  
(916) 653-5040 Fax

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## Fish and Game Commission

FEB 14 2001

February 14, 2001

Dr. Donald O. McIsaac  
Executive Director  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224  
Portland, Oregon 97201

*Don*  
Dear Dr. McIsaac:

### Allocation of Klamath River Fall Chinook to the River Sport Fishery

At its February 2, 2001, meeting, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) heard a report on the 2000 salmon fisheries in the Klamath River and considered possible regulatory changes in river sport fishing regulations commencing this summer.

The Klamath River sport fishery was closed down very early in the run in 2000 due to projected quota attainment. This was done even though fishery catch rates indicated the actual run size was much larger than projected. Post-season analysis indicated the run size was, indeed, much larger than projected for both hatchery and naturally spawning fish. Had the projections been close to the preliminary, post-season run size estimates, it appears that a much larger river sport catch could have been allowed.

The Commission believes that this kind of situation begs for a mechanism to adjust the river quotas on an in-season basis. The Klamath Fishery Management Council (KFMC) has previously discussed such a procedure and we hope they find a solution or direction for addressing the problem in the near future. Of course, it would have to be understood that an in-season run-size methodology would also have to provide for reduced quotas if the run were projected to be below expectations.

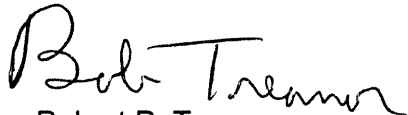
Regarding the river sport fishery quota for the current year, the Commission voted to continue the policy adopted for the fishery in 2000. That is, for pre-season planning purposes, the KFMC and Pacific Fishery Management Council should set aside 15 percent of the non-tribal share of the allowable catch of the stock for the river sport fishery. Also, as we decided last year, in the event the ocean fisheries are not able to harvest their full allotments (on a pre-season basis), any additional adult fish returning to the river should be allocated to the river sport fishery. This is what actually happened in 1999, and we would like to continue with this procedure in 2001.

Dr. Donald O. McIsaac  
February 14, 2001  
Page Two

The Commission will hold public hearings on the Klamath River regulations on March 26 in Crescent City and on March 27 in Weaverville. It will make a final decision on the actual quota level at its April 5-6 meeting in Monterey.

I will be available at your March 2001 meeting in Portland to answer any questions you may have about this letter or the Commission process in general.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Treanor  
Executive Director

cc: Director Robert C. Hight  
Klamath Fishery Management Council  
LB Boydston, Intergovernmental Affairs Office