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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Fish and Game Commission



March 5, 2003

Dr. Donald O. McIsaac
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Dr. McIsaac:

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), at its February 7, 2003, meeting received the Department of Fish and Game's report on the 2002 salmon fisheries in the Klamath River and was provided a range of possible regulatory changes in the river sport salmon fishing regulations commencing this summer.

For the river sport fishery for fall-run chinook salmon for the current year, the Commission voted to continue its policy adopted for the fishery the past several years. That is, for pre-season planning purposes, the KFMC and the PFMC should set aside 15-17 percent of the non-tribal share of the allowable catch of the stock for the river sport fishery. Also, as we have decided the past several years, 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. As noted previously, this is what actually happened the past several years, and we would like to continue with this procedure in 2003.

The Commission will hold public meetings on the Klamath River and ocean salmon regulations on March 25 in Crescent City and on March 26 in Weaverville. It is scheduled to make its final decision on the actual quota level and regulation changes at its April 4, 2003, meeting in Visalia.

I will be available at your March 11, 2003, meeting in Sacramento to answer any questions you may have about this letter or the Commission process in general.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Treanor
Executive Director

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cc: Director Robert C. Hight
Klamath Fishery Management Council
Eric Larsen, Marine Region-Belmont
Marija Vojkovich, Marine Region-Santa Barbara
Don Koch, Regional Manager, Northern California and North Coast Region
Neil Manii, Northern California and North Coast Region