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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Fish and Game Commission


RECEIVED

FEB 28 2005

PFMC

February 23, 2005

Mr. Donald K. Hansen
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland OR 97220-1384

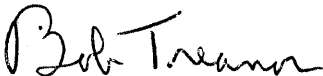

Dear Mr. Hansen:

Thank you for your February 14, 2005, letter requesting the Commission's cooperation in dealing with the in-river allocation of Klamath River fall chinook salmon. Rest assured that the Commission, as it has in past years, will continue to work cooperatively with the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) in developing the ocean and in-river salmon regulations for 2005.

The Commission understands that the 2005 Klamath River fall chinook salmon run-size will be low, but has not received specific details from the Department of Fish and Game. If the Commission receives this information from the Department in time, we anticipate that it will have specific recommendations on range of ocean and in-river fishery alternatives for the Council's March meeting in Sacramento.

If you or the Council's staff have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Treanor
Executive Director

cc: All Commissioners
Deputy Director Mastrup
Neil Manji, Northern California-North Coast Region
Eric Larson, Marine Region-Belmont
Alan Grover, Marine Region-Santa Rosa

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February 14, 2005

Mr. Jim Kellog, President
California Fish and Game Commission
PO Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Dear Mr. Kellog:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will begin its process of establishing the 2005 West Coast ocean salmon fishing seasons with its first meeting during the week of March 7-11, 2005 in Sacramento, California. Utilizing recommendations and expertise of the Klamath Fishery Management Council, state fish and game agencies, tribal, commercial and recreational fishing representatives, and the public, the Council will develop a range of management options for public review. This will be followed by regional hearings and a final determination of the seasons during the first week of April in Tacoma, Washington. Of particular concern to this year's deliberations, and the reason for this letter, is the need for your cooperation in dealing with the in-river allocation of Klamath River fall chinook. As you already know, this stock is projected to be at a very low level of abundance for the 2005 season.

The Council's salmon fishery management process demands a thorough and open assessment to determine the best way to utilize the harvest of a limited salmon resource by numerous different social and economic groups and communities. Klamath River fall chinook are a stock of significant importance to tribal and recreational fisheries in the river and commercial and recreational ocean fisheries over much of the California and Oregon coasts. Equitably allocating the limited impacts for this stock, to optimize the social and economic values to the region, will be a difficult challenge requiring a thorough scientific analysis of the information, as well as the careful consideration of the full range of possible options.

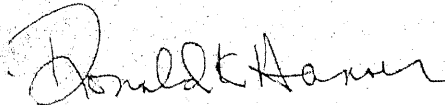
We recognize the California Fish and Game Commission will make the final determination in establishing the allowable recreational harvest within the Klamath River. We also believe the March Council meeting will provide the affected entities the first opportunity to fully and simultaneously explore the range of ocean and river fishery alternatives in regard to utilizing

Mr. Jim Kellog
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allowable Klamath River fall chinook impacts. To achieve the most equitable and valuable outcome for all of the affected entities, we request the California Fish and Game Commission consider the full analysis of the range of in-river harvest allocations that will be prepared at the March Council meeting prior to making your final allocation determination.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or the Council's Executive Director, Dr. Donald McIsaac.

Sincerely,



Donald K. Hansen
Council Chairman

JCC:kla

c: Council members
Mr. Robert Treanor
Klamath Fishery Management Council
Mr. Chuck Tracy