

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE TESTIMONY OF IDENTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT
OBJECTIVES AND PRELIMINARY DEFINITION OF 2006 SALMON MANAGEMENT
OPTIONS

- (1) My name is Mike Orcutt, I am the Fisheries Director for Hoopa Tribal Fisheries. The Hoopa Valley Tribe (Tribe) thanks the Council for this opportunity to share its perspectives on the **review of the 2005 season and prospective salmon fisheries for 2006**.
- (2) Prior to offering specific comments on the upcoming salmon management season, I wish to inform the PFMC with regard to Klamath-Trinity water issues. The historic signing of the Trinity River Record of Decision by the Tribe and the Secretary of the Interior was executed in December 2000. Since that time, our efforts have included overcoming legal challenges by competing demands for Trinity River water. In the wake of legal challenges, the process of restoring the Trinity River is proceeding. We have worked on clearing the river channel of obstacles to restored flows, completed construction to the initial suite of restoration sites, and made progress on the Science Framework, needed to steer the adaptive management program.
On the Klamath River, the Council is well aware of the 2002 adult fish kill. This unprecedented event resulted in the devastating loss of over 68,000 adult Klamath fall Chinook potential spawners. In the aftermath of this kill, the Tribe worked with co-managers to optimize the success of a reduced 2002 brood and limit the conditions that could result in subsequent adult fish kills. Many are also aware of significant mortality to down-stream salmon migrants related to chronic disease outbreaks in recent years. This concern is paramount in recent studies intended to relate flow management to the proliferation of fish diseases in Klamath River.
- (3) With regard to the KFMC's recommendation concerning de minimis fisheries, the allowance for departures from requirements of the FMP was conditioned on several principals.
Fundamental in the KFMC's recommendation was that the magnitude of de minimis fisheries would comport with a maximum spawner reduction rate of 10% and that the rate should reduce linearly from 10% to 0% as a function of projected stock abundance. In summary, the magnitude of a de minimis fishery as defined by the KFMC in October 2005, has already been exceeded for the 2006 management. The KRTAT has presented to information illustrating that an 8% maximum spawner reduction rate would be possible in 2006, had there not been ocean fisheries last fall. After sustaining the impacts that actually occurred in fall of 2005 ocean fisheries, it was represented that there has already been an approximate 10% spawner reduction.

- (4) Management models need technical review to ensure achievement of conservation and allocation principals in every year. In the past two years, target harvest rates for ocean fisheries have been significantly exceeded. Since 1994, post season comparisons of total catch in tribal and non-tribal fisheries result in 35-65 sharing of total harvest as compared with the objective of 50-50 tribal-non-tribal sharing. In the present management year, non-tribal fisheries have already harvested over 6,000 fish in the fall of 2005. Overall, the Tribe supports the PFMC's objective for best science assured through methodology reviews scheduled as needed.
- (5) The Tribe is presently developing its management alternatives for 2006. The present situation is particularly difficult for the Tribe. The projected low returns of Klamath natural spawners raises concerns over adequate stock replenishment. Legal principals will be embraced in the Tribe's final harvest management decision for 2006. Meanwhile, the Tribe continues participation with co-managers in making recommendations for 2006 fisheries.
- (6) Finally the Tribe encourages the PFMC to pursue the KFMC recommendation to adequately anticipate (model) fall fisheries within the calendar year that they occur. In fall of 2005, the prosecution of fall fisheries resulted in significant harvest of Klamath Basin Chinook. Even absent the 2005 fall fishery, it is believed that the conservation objective for Klamath fall Chinook would not be met in 2006. Better knowledge as to the potential effect of fall fisheries on both conservation and allocation principals would facilitate better understanding of potential management actions.

PFMC
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