

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBAL COMMENTS ON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN  
AMENDMENT SCOPING FOR DE MINIMIS FISHERIES ASSOCIATED WITH KLAMATH  
RIVER FALL CHINOOK IMPACTS

- (1) My name is George Kautsky, I am the Deputy Director for Hoopa Tribal Fisheries. The Hoopa Valley Tribe (Tribe) thanks the Council for this opportunity to share its perspectives on the **Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Amendment Scoping for de minimis Fisheries Associated with Klamath River Fall Chinook Impacts.**
- (2) The Tribe has a long history working with the Council and the Klamath Fishery Management Council (KFMC) in developing and implementing the 9<sup>th</sup> amendment to the FMP. In 1986 a harvest rate alternative for Klamath fall Chinook management was developed with Tribal participation by the Klamath River Technical Advisory Team which replaced the prior “rebuilding” schedule for natural spawners. Implemented under the FMP’s 9<sup>th</sup> amendment, the stock was to be managed by harvest rate allowing up to a 2/3 removal by fisheries of the potential adult natural spawners across all brood years. In all years, management was to clear the natural spawner floor of 35,000 adults. Failure to clear the floor in for three consecutive years (1990, 1991, and 1992) resulted in an over fishing review published in 1994. We continue to work closely with the two councils and their technical teams to ensure prudent management of Klamath fall Chinook.
- (3) In our continued efforts to work with co-managers, last fall we were party to a consensus recommendation of the KFMC for de minimis fisheries.  
The call for *de minimis* fisheries come from the ocean fisheries sector seeking flexibility in 2005 management to take advantage of what was forecast to be record high abundance of Sacramento fall Chinook in the context of a relatively depressed Klamath stock. 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.
- (4) The Tribe is opposed to any reduction in the FMP conservation standard for Klamath fall Chinook which requires clearing the 35,000 adult natural spawner floor in all years. We will continue to work closely with the KFMC and PFMC and our trustee to sustain the present conservation standard while allowing for flexibility as described in the KFMC’s recommendation for *de minimis* fisheries. The Tribe will pursue its role as co-manager while reserving its rights within the scope of applicable law.

PFMC  
03/10/06