

**HOOPA VALLEY TRIBAL COMMENTS ON
Council Recommendations for 2008 Management Option Analysis**

My Name is George Kautsky; I am the deputy-director for the Hoopa Valley Tribe's Fisheries Department.

We offer the following comments regarding recommendations for 2008 Salmon Management Option Analysis.

- (1) We have conferred with the Yurok Tribal representative and jointly request that the Council develop an option consistent with the FMP conservation standard of 35,000 Klamath natural adult spawners.
- (2) Developing an option with the 35,000 floor escapement level would provide tribal co-managers an opportunity to evaluate the implications of the elevated escapement objective (40,700 natural spawners) as presently reflected in all three options before you today.
- (3) Earlier in the week we spoke in support of the STT's recommended criterion for ending the overfishing concern wherein the 35,000 natural escapement floor would need to be exceeded for **three** consecutive years in four. We are concerned with the Council's alternative criterion which potentially would rely on the strength of a single brood (Brood Year 2004) for ending this concern. Evidence shows that the 2003 brood was depressed and the 2005 brood returned record low jacks in 2007.
- (4) The Hoopa Valley Tribe has been supportive of the 35,000 floor since its inception in the late 1980s. This standard has been recently confirmed by the STT as a reasonable threshold for conservation to ensure against prolonged periods of low productivity of the Klamath fall Chinook.
- (5) The Hoopa Valley Tribe was opposed to Amendment 15 as it threatened to undermine the 35,000 floor in years of low abundance leading to heightened concerns for natural stock productivity.
- (6) In conclusion, we urge the Council to provide an option modeling fisheries around observance of the 35,000 natural spawner escapement floor for adult Klamath fall chinook for 2008 management.