

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Portland, Oregon 97201

Telephone: (503) 326-6352

CHAIRMAN  
Frank R. Warrens

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Lawrence D. Six

December 8, 1993

The Honorable Bruce Babbitt  
Secretary of the Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is deeply concerned with the need to restore the natural production of Klamath River fall chinook. Coastal communities from central Oregon to San Francisco have lost millions of dollars over the past several years due to fishery reductions to protect this stock. Commercial Indian fisheries in the Klamath River, which provided nearly \$1 million dollars in gross revenues to tribal fishers in 1988, are now greatly diminished. However, the Council cannot assure restoration of the Klamath stock and abundant fisheries solely through harvest reductions.

In April of this year, the departments of Interior and Commerce completed and implemented an agreement whereby the spawning escapement for Klamath River fall chinook was augmented by 3,000 fish over that provided for in the fishery management plan of the Council. This increase was justified, in part, to take advantage of the increased water supply that was expected to be available in the Klamath-Trinity River Basin due to elevated levels of precipitation during the previous winter and early spring. Since the flows in the Trinity and Klamath rivers are largely controlled by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) projects, the actual availability of improved spawning and rearing flows to Klamath River fall chinook depends on the operation of these projects.

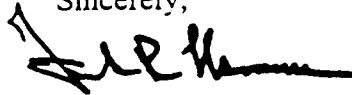
At present, the Council has not been informed of any planned actions by the BOR to assure beneficial flow conditions for migration, spawning and rearing of Klamath River fall chinook. Such actions appear to be an important part of the federal government's responsibility for protecting the natural anadromous fish populations and the reserved fishing rights of the Klamath River Indian tribes.

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As you probably know, Public law 94-265 directs federal agencies to provide a detailed written response to Council comments within 45 days. The Council wishes to take advantage of this provision to request a summary of the specific water management actions which have been and will be taken to assure that optimum natural production results from the 1993 brood year of Klamath River fall chinook.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank R. Warrens", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank R. Warrens  
Chairman

JCC:sjk  
c: Habitat Steering Group