

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

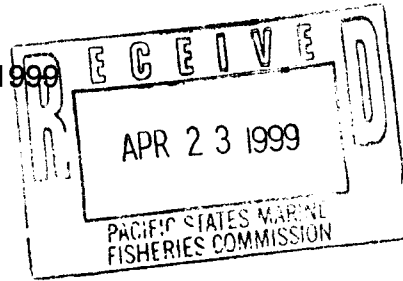
2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224
Portland, Oregon 97201

HAIRMAN
Jerry Mallet

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lawrence D. Six

Telephone: (503) 326-6352

April 22, 1999



Mr. Karl Wirkus
Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation Area Office
Klamath Falls Basin
6600 Washburn Way
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

and

Ms. Bernice Sullivan
Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation Area Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Wirkus and Ms. Sullivan:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has recently been made aware that the Bureau of Reclamation is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the operational plan for the Klamath Project, located on the Klamath River above Iron Gate Dam. This EIS will dictate project operations pending the completion of the Oregon adjudication for the Oregon portion of the Klamath River. To date, the Council has not received any notice or other information in regard to this EIS. It is also our understanding that many fishing interests concerned with Klamath River water management have also not been contacted.

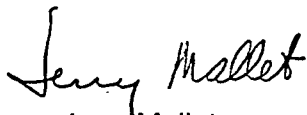
The Council was created by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) in 1976 with the primary role of developing, monitoring, and revising management plans for fisheries conducted within federal waters off Washington, Oregon, and California. Subsequent congressional amendments in 1986, 1990, and in 1996 added emphasis to the Council's role in fishery habitat protection. Amendments in 1996 directed the National Marine Fisheries Service, as well as the regional fishery management councils, to make recommendations regarding federal or state agency activities that may affect the essential fish habitat (EFH) of a fishery under its authority. The Magnuson-Stevens Act's amendments also mandate threats to EFH be identified, and that conservation and enhancement measures be described that minimize those adverse impacts. The operations of the Klamath Project affects EFH.

Mr. Wirkus and Ms. Sullivan
April 22, 1999
Page 2

The decline of Klamath River Basin fisheries resources is of serious concern to the Council. Ocean fisheries along the Pacific Coast from Cape Falcon to south of San Francisco are managed to reduce harvest impacts to Klamath River fall chinook. Operational plans for the Klamath Project have a direct influence on the condition of anadromous fish stocks in this Basin and as such greatly affect the economies of tribal and non-tribal fishing communities along several hundred miles of the Pacific Coast.

The Council strongly suggests that any potential water management actions adequately address the biological needs of the Klamath River's anadromous and endemic fish and restore this unique ecosystem to its proper function. The Council concurs with the positions that have been taken by the Yurok Tribe in this regard that instream flow needs for anadromous fish are fully met prior to water being allocated to agricultural purposes.

Sincerely,



Jerry Mallet
Chairman

SHP:klr

c: Mr. Robert Anderson
Mr. David Hayes
Mr. Kirk Rodgers
Council Members
Habitat Steering Group