



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

Exhibit D.1
Attachment 2
April 2003

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MAR 17 2003

PFMC

Hans Radtke, Ph.D.
Chairman, Pacific Fishery
Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

MAR 11 2003

Dear Dr. Radtke:

Thank you for your letter regarding the fish kill in the Lower Klamath River last fall. We apologize for the delay in this response, but hope the following information is helpful to you.

Estimates indicate that approximately 30,000 adult fish died in the Lower Klamath River, below the point where the Trinity River joins the Klamath, primarily fall-run Chinook salmon, but including endangered Coho salmon, and steelhead trout. We share your concerns about the damages done to the resource, the economy and the cultural observances attached to this valuable fish resource. The Department continues to utilize the information provided through years of cooperation among the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, and tribal officials to evaluate this unprecedented resource loss.

The Department is awaiting the completion of a report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the fish kill. In addition, a Final Report from the National Academy of Sciences providing an assessment of the environmental parameters critical to the survival and recovery of listed fish species in the Klamath Basin and of the Biological Opinions under which the Bureau of Reclamation operated the Klamath Project last year, and under which it continues to operate in 2003, is expected within the next several months. The findings of these reports, along with the information provided in a report completed by the California Department of Fish and Game, will assist the Department in its continuing responsibilities in the Klamath Basin. Of course, we cannot be specific at this time with respect to the recommendations that will be proffered by these studies. Your concerns and the concerns of many other constituents have been taken into consideration, however, in establishing the protocols for water resource management of the Klamath Basin.

Your interest in this important resource management matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sue Ellen Wooldridge
Deputy Chief of Staff and Counselor