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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
West Coast Region  
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232-1274

February 22, 2018

Agenda Item E.2.a  
Supplemental NMFS Report 1  
March 2018

Honorable Ryan Jackson, Chairman  
Hoopa Valley Tribe  
P.O. Box 1348  
Hoopa, CA 95546

Dear Chairman Jackson:

I am writing to inquire about the Hoopa Valley Tribe's 2017 fall season fishery, specifically the Tribe's apparent exceedance of the Klamath River fall Chinook salmon (KRFC) 2017 fishery preseason expectations.

The preseason forecast of potential natural-area adult KRFC spawners absent fishing was 12,383. In response, *de minimis* fishing provisions of the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) were implemented. As a result, the exploitation rate for all fishing (the spawner reduction rate) was limited to 8.1 percent. To meet that limit, all fishing in the Klamath Management Zone was closed and ocean fisheries to the north and south were severely restricted. The fall season in-river sport fishery was also closed. Consistent with the provisions of the FMP, the total tribal share was 814 fish. My understanding is that the Hoopa Valley Tribe's share was 20 percent of the total or 163 fish. The expected escapement of natural-area adults after all fisheries was 11,379, the lowest on record. The Pacific Fishery Management Council's Review of 2017 Ocean Salmon Fisheries was released last week and reports a catch of 1,660 adult KRFC in the Hoopa Valley Tribal fishery.

Fortunately, the return of KRFC was higher than the preseason forecast. The natural-area escapement of adult KRFC was 18,514, including 4,682 in the Trinity River. Although better than expected, the escapement was still far below the FMP-defined conservation objective of 40,700 naturally spawning adults.

Given these circumstances, I am interested in any information you have regarding how the Hoopa Valley Tribe's KRFC fishery was managed in 2017 and how the Tribe's fishery will be managed consistent with the salmon FMP in 2018. I am available to discuss by phone at your convenience and can be reached at (503) 231-6266.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barry A. Thom".

Barry A. Thom  
Regional Administrator

cc: ✓ Chuck Tracy, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Charlton Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Amy Dutschke, Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs Pacific Region

