

**HOOPA VALLEY TRIBAL COMMENTS ON
F.5.b Salmon Management, Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup Progress Report and
Recommendations --Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory
Bodies**

The Hoopa Valley Tribe (Tribe) thanks the PFMC (Council) for this opportunity to comment regarding the Progress Report authored by the Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC) Ad-Hoc Workgroup (Workgroup). With this testimony, the Tribe strongly encourages the Council to provide affirmative guidance for continued exploration and development of the sub-basin management approach as described in the Workgroup's report!

The Tribe's technical representatives have participated in each and every Workgroup meeting since its first meeting on October 26, 2023. The Tribe has no alternative but to actively engage as a co-manager in any and all actions of this Council which might affect access to our federally reserved fishery. Exercise of our reserved fishing rights and ensuring the health of our fisheries are the fundamental foundations of our existence.

The Workgroup has provided a short list of plausible management approaches for the Council's consideration. Among these is the Sub-Basin management approach which uniquely addresses both added conservatism for the upper-Klamath while minimizing unneeded restrictions upon fisheries which would not directly affect this new conservation area. While many have contributed to the development of this concept, this Council should be aware that the concepts for sub-basin management are not new for our Tribe. Indeed, we first announced our interest in pursuing such an approach to co-managers in 2018 in light of what the Tribe perceived as an inevitable change in the Basin consequent to removal of Klamath dams. Today, as the Workgroup searches for ways in which to provide added conservation to protect upper-Klamath-bound Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC), this approach finds immediate context.

The Klamath and Trinity rivers may flow as one for 40 miles from their confluence to the Pacific Ocean, but they extend much farther as separate systems. The Trinity River flows for 110 miles above the confluence from the Trinity River Diversion (TRD) while the Klamath used to flow for 150 miles from the previous Iron Gate dam site and now flows for over 220 miles from its headwaters in Oregon. Their legacies of degradation and paths to restoration are similarly separate and extensive. While both systems were dammed, the primary function of each system's dams differed, hydroelectric power on the Klamath and water diversion for agriculture on the Trinity. The utility of the Klamath Dams decreased over time and their removal was seen as more valuable than the power they generated, providing the Klamath's path to restoration starting in the early-2000s. The recently completed removal of the lower four dams on the Klamath will re-establish anadromy to portions of the Klamath which have not seen salmon in almost 100 years. The water diverted from the Trinity to agricultural sites in the Central Valley by the TRD has remained highly valuable and thus the path toward Trinity restoration has focused on improving downstream habitat, especially after the 2000 Record of Decision (ROD). Developed by the Secretary of the Interior in concurrence with the Tribe, the ROD initiated the formation of the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) which has a congressionally stated mandate to restore tribal and non-tribal fisheries to pre-dam levels (Public Law 102-575, Title 34) and has since expended well over \$200M to restore natural anadromous fish production in the Trinity River below the TRD.

Like the waters themselves, the salmon of the Klamath and Trinity Rivers appear well separated above the confluence. The straying of returning adult spawners from either river into the other, especially into the upper basins, appears to be fairly uncommon from the analysis of coded wire tags and hatchery marks at the Iron Gate and Trinity River Hatcheries. The Trinity River is the largest tributary to the Klamath River and annually produces approximately 30-40% of the overall KRFC contributions to Council managed fisheries. If Trinity River origin salmon are unlikely to stray into the upper Klamath basin and contribute significantly to the recolonization of the newly available habitat above the former dam sites, and Trinity origin KRFC represent a major portion of the overall population, it would seem that an approach that treats those salmon as a separate stock from the balance of the KRFC would be warranted given the stated goals in the Workgroup's Terms of Reference (Agenda Item I.1, Supplemental Attachment 2, June 2023). Hence, the Tribe sees the opportunity to partition the management of KRFC into these two distinct stock groupings and thereby delivering the sought for conservation in upper-Klamath while minimizing harm to other fisheries including tribal and non-tribal fisheries.

The Tribe recognizes that much work would need to be done before this sub-basin management approach could be implemented in practice and that this work is dependent on their being sufficient data for the necessary analyses and could take several years to complete. This is true of all of the proposed management options with the exception of the currently implemented harvest control rule with a range of buffers. The Tribe would like to point out that there are also several efforts separate from the Council currently underway which could directly and indirectly support the development of this approach such as the TRRP's Trinity River specific fall chinook cohort reconstruction and limiting factors analysis.

In closing, the Tribe reiterates its call to the Council to give affirmative guidance to the Workgroup to expand and develop the sub-basin management approach. While this approach could be utilized simply as an interim management measure while populations in the Klamath restabilize, the Tribe believes the sub-basin approach could also be considered as a long-term solution to the evolving landscape of habitat restoration and dam removal legacies. As noted here, the Tribe remains committed to working with the Workgroup in its further development of management approaches. As a reserved rights holder to the Klamath fisheries, the Tribe will continue to conduct its fishery responsibly under the authority of our Tribal Council and in collaboration with co-managers and this Council.