



# YUROK TRIBE

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April 5, 2018

Phil Anderson, Chairman  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Yurok Tribal management objective for 2018

Aiy-ye-kwee':

On behalf of the Yurok Tribe, I am writing to inform you of our management intent for the Yurok Tribe's 2018 fishery for Klamath Fall Chinook. We will be managing our fishery to harvest 80% of the Tribal portion of the Klamath Fall Chinook harvestable surplus, while managing for 40,700 natural spawners (MSY value for Klamath Fall Chinook).

The Tribal portion of the harvestable surplus, based on 40,700 natural spawners, is most closely identified in Alternatives #1 and #2 that have gone out for public review. We recognize that this number may fluctuate slightly dependent upon the structure of ocean fisheries and their associated age composition. We will adjust our harvest accordingly, based on the final model output from the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model run that results in 40,700 natural spawners.

As you may recall, the Klamath fall chinook run was projected to be the lowest in recorded history during the 2017 season; the third year in a row that the Minimum Stock Size Threshold conservation standard would not be met. Therefore, in an effort to maximize natural spawning abundance during this year of extremely low abundance, for the first time in history, we completely closed the Yurok Tribe's subsistence gill net fishery during 2017. We ended up harvesting approximately 216 adult Chinook of our 651 adult fall Chinook share, primarily for a small Elders distribution program and ceremonies.

It is our understanding that two of the alternatives out for public review have fish above and beyond the MSY value of 40,700 natural spawners being dedicated to the spawning grounds. Apparently this is driven by two factors: 1) ocean fisheries can't harvest all of the non-tribal Klamath impacts this year due to Sacramento Fall Chinook constraints, and 2) to augment natural spawning ground abundance given that Klamath Fall Chinook have been designated as "overfished". While we appreciate any conservation efforts the non-tribal sector chooses to take to conserve Klamath Fall Chinook, especially following three years of extremely low stock abundance, we want to make it clear that we will be managing for MSY.

We made the ultimate sacrifice last year by completely closing our subsistence fishery during a time the stock was projected to be at extremely low abundance. Now that stock abundance is

projected to have increased, and we are once again able to manage for MSY, we look forward to maximizing the opportunity for Yurok People to sustain themselves from our fishery; therefore we will be managing our fishery to target 80% of the Klamath Tribal share that is projected to meet MSY. If you have any questions regarding our management plan for the 2018 fall Chinook fishery, please don't hesitate to contact myself, or Dave Hillemeier (Fisheries Department Director) at the address in the letterhead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas O'Rourke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T' and 'O'.

Thomas O'Rourke