

**HOOPA VALLEY TRIBAL COMMENTS ON
G.4 Identification of Management Objectives and Preliminary Definition of 2012
Salmon Management Options**

The unprecedented high forecast for age-3, brood year 2009 Klamath River fall Chinook (KRFC) represents an opportunity for dependent fisheries. Yet regional constraints in marine fisheries for protection of ESA listed stocks will likely inhibit full access to KRFC in 2012.

Principles for full utilization across tribal and non-tribal sectors had been explored within the KFMC and remain an option for co-managers today. Regardless of how harvest allocation resolves in 2012, Amendment 16 will required the return at least 86,000 adults to natural spawning grounds after a full 68% spawner reduction in fisheries, if attainable. To the degree that full spawner reduction is not realized, the escapement to natural (and hatchery) areas will increase.

Fluctuations in parental stock size remain a fundamental objective of harvest rate management initiated in 1986 for evaluating assumed KRFC productivity. However, floor escapement management has predominated the record for over two decades. Excursions of relatively high levels of parental stock such as anticipated in 2012, are limited in the data set and in need of further exploration, particularly in light of improvements to freshwater habitat.

The 2012 river return of KRFC adults will coincide with an expected dry or critically dry hydrology in the Klamath Basin. The HVT has been working with co-managers to proactively ensure favorable flows this summer as large numbers of both spring and fall run Chinook return to the River.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) has assured HVT that supplemental fall flows will be provided in years when Chinook migration may become compromised in a manner similar to the 2002 fish kill in lower Klamath River.

The HVT has been partnering with Humboldt County to ensure the permanent release of an additional 50,000 acre feet of water annually over and above fishery restoration flows which are embodied under the Trinity ROD. These 50,000 acre feet were legislated under the authority for Trinity Division of the Central Valley Project but never before honored by DOI. Cool water of this volume when strategically released from the base of Trinity Dam during late summer, offers a unique benefit for salmon in a regulated watershed. A joint letter from HVT and Humboldt County addressed to Secretary of the Interior Salazar and California Governor Brown is being drafted. Once finalized, the letter will be shared with the PFMC's Habitat Sub-Committee to assist in development of

a similar correspondence for PFMCs consideration.

Post-spawn production of large parental stock seeding is a matter of interest too. Fortunately, the progeny of the 2012 spawn will benefit from ongoing efforts to improve basin capacity. Today's full funding for implementation of the Trinity Record of Decision (ROD), guaranteed fishery restoration flows, and 50% completion of ongoing channel restoration, all speak to improved rearing and outmigration conditions. The dynamics of freshwater habitat interact with fluctuations in parental stock size over time to best inform fishery managers as to stock productivity and future harvest management strategies.

Lastly, in the interest of advancing stock diversity, the HVT has been actively participating in the California Hatchery Scientific Review Group (CAHSRG) process. Release of the CAHSRG's final report is anticipated this spring. We are looking forward to working with co-managers to ensure effective implementation of CAHSRG recommendations. Strategies for oversight and implementation monitoring at the hatchery program level will be targeted to ensure success.

In the coming weeks, the HVT will be considering management alternatives for its Chinook fisheries in 2012. We are guided by our interest in meeting objectives for stock conservation and best science, while ensuring restoration of high quality fish habitat. To that end, we are coordinating our efforts with co-managers in several key areas including harvest, hatchery and habitat management throughout the Klamath-Trinity basin.