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COUNTY OF DEL NORTE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Fax
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March 26, 2019

President Eric Sklar
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 644209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: Recommendations on 2019 Upper Klamath and Trinity River (UKTR) Spring Chinook Salmon Recreational Fishing Regulations

Dear President Sklar,

The Del Norte County Board of Supervisors (the "Board") wishes to sincerely commend the California Fish and Game Commission (the "Commission") for allowing our constituency an opportunity to provide input on amending the 2019 emergency sport fishing regulations for the Upper Klamath and Trinity River (UKTR) Spring Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) candidate species status review for listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). It is our understanding that this is an unprecedented action on behalf of the Commission, and we feel that allowing for an open dialogue between local constituencies and the Commission is a very prudent way to allow stakeholders to help support decision making. The recommendations contained herein are specifically directed at fishing regulations on the Lower Klamath River, from the mouth to the confluence of the Trinity River.

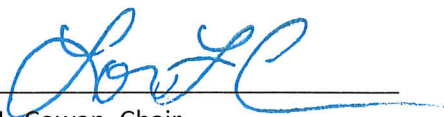
As you are aware, the Commission by law is unable to consider economic impacts to Del Norte County, however we must remind the Commission that as duly elected representatives we do not have the luxury to push aside compelling information that clearly impacts the health and welfare of our community. Recreational fishing is essential to our local economy, where local hospitality, restaurant, hotel and service sector industries, and licensed fishing guides rely on this fishery annually to make ends meet. With so much of the economy tied to recreational fishing, even a temporary halt on the ability to fish for UKTR Spring Chinook Salmon could have massive implications to the livelihood of Del Norte County, which already has a per capita median income below the state average. Because of this, the Board is obligated to deliver recommendations to the Commission that may provide a lifeline to a community reliant on the Spring Chinook while also increasing the level of protections the Commission is obligated to consider during this candidacy period.

During a well-attended meeting hosted by the County and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (the "Department"), we discussed with fishermen and the fishing constituency, representatives of the Nor-Cal Guides & Sportsmen's Association, members of the Yurok Tribe, local biologists as well as scientists from the Department to discuss potential amendments to the emergency regulations that would protect the UKTR Spring Chook Salmon and the community while status review is taking place. Through round-table discussion, the constituency has agreed on an amendment to the regulations that will benefit the species while also reducing the significance of a full closure of the fishery during the candidacy period. The Board speaking for our stakeholders respectfully recommends that the Commission consider the following:

1. **Reduce the UKTR Spring Chinook salmon harvest by opening the season on July 1st.** This reduces the season by approximately 50% compared to 2018 regulations and takes angler effort off the lower river when, in recent years, it has been highest impact on the run. This recommendation is also in line with the Department's data that suggests most UKTR Spring Chinook are above the lower river by the end of June, signaling that this late opening will provide a significant higher level of protection than 2018 regulations and early access to Fall Run Chinook Salmon.
2. **Reduce the UKTR Spring Chinook salmon harvest by decreasing the bag limit to 1 fish and maintaining the possession limit of 2 fish.** This recommendation reduces the status quo bag limit from 2 fish to 1 fish. The regulation would especially affect recreational fishermen and tourists by greatly decreasing angler effort on the lower river.

The Board wishes to highlight the sacrifice on behalf of not only the fishing constituency, but our whole community by making these recommendations. We strongly believe that these recommendations based on all available scientific data are prudent steps when crafting emergency regulations for the 2019 angling season for UKTR Spring Chinook salmon. It is our hope that the Commission can agree that these recommendations provide a significant level of protection for UKTR Spring Chinook salmon in the candidacy period. Del Norte County respectfully urges the Commission to review and consider these recommendations in the support of the Lower Klamath River fishery.

Sincerely,



Lori L. Cowan, Chair
Del Norte County Board of Supervisors