

Testimony of N. Kathryn Brigham
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Good afternoon. My name is Kathryn Brigham and I am the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and I also serve as Chair of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. My family are fishermen and fisherwomen on the Columbia River, and have been for many generations. I have known Representative Dicks and Mr. Waldo for many years, and appreciate their efforts on behalf of our region.

The Umatilla Tribe compliments the HSRG in completing their report and looks forward to considering the results and recommendations. The Umatilla Tribe believes that the HSRG conclusion that hatcheries can be managed to provide harvest benefits and meet conservation objectives is a positive outcome of the review.

The Policy Statement to the HSRG report outlines important policy considerations that will impact how the Umatilla Tribe intends to use these recommendations. While the overarching policy mandates are unavoidable, the recommendations in the HSRG report are technical and scientific and do not, nor were they ever intended to, provide policy guidance or to be prescriptive or regulatory in nature. The intent of the Umatilla fishery managers is to consider the suggestions provided here and incorporate them in our programs when and where they strike the right balance among scientific, legal, and policy considerations that we must respond to. The HSRG information and suggestions will be a valuable additional tool available to our fisheries managers as they exercise their authority to manage salmon and steelhead populations.

In the last twelve months, tribal, state and federal co-managers, hydropower system managers, and others have concluded domestic and international agreements setting forth unprecedented commitments and dynamic management frameworks needed to protect and recover Columbia River anadromous fish resources. These are in addition to, and complement, existing policy and legal mandates. Any changes to hatchery programs in response to the HSRG recommendations must be informed by and consistent with these existing legal and policy mandates. A few of these mandates include:

- Legislatively authorized and mandated mitigation obligations of the FCRPS and other dams to provide fish. The mitigation obligations associated with the FCRPS are substantial and will continue into the future;
- Legally mandated harvest agreements such as the *US vs. Oregon* Management Agreement, and the Pacific Salmon Treaty with Canada;
- Tribal treaty reserved fishing rights; and

- Logistical challenges and facility constraints;

Decisions about the extent and timeframe in which hatchery reform recommendations will be adopted were explicitly reserved to these and other processes and constraints. With the analysis represented in this report, fishery managers now have a stronger base from which to discuss, analyze and implement their hatchery programs on a case-by-case basis in the context of congressionally-established mitigation goals, management agreements, facility and funding constraints, treaty rights, and court orders.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today.