

Title 17

FISHING RIGHTS

Chapters:

- 17.05** **General Provisions**
- 17.10** **Fisher Requirements**
- 17.15** **Fisheries Management**
- 17.20** **Subsistence Fishery**
- 17.25** **Commercial Fishery**
- 17.30** **Commercial Fishery Sales and Permitting**
- 17.35** **Tribal Guide Fishery**
- 17.40** **Harvest Management**
- 17.45** **Enforcement and Sanctions**
- 17.50** **Tribal Court Review and Jurisdiction**

Prior legislation: Adopted 6/4/96; amended 6/7/96; amended 7/11/96; amended 10/7/98; amended 7/7/99; and amended 7/18/07.

Authority: Pursuant to its authority under Article [IV](#), Section [5](#) of the Constitution of the Yurok Tribe, as certified on November 24, 1993, the Yurok Tribal Council herein enacts the following amendment and restatement of the Yurok Tribal fishing rights ordinance to protect the Tribe's federally reserved fishing rights and Tribal fishery resources.

Cross reference: See YTC Title [18](#) for hunting and wildlife regulations.

Chapter 17.05

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sections:

- 17.05.010** **Short title.**
- 17.05.020** **Findings.**
- 17.05.030** **Purpose.**
- 17.05.040** **Reservation of rights.**
- 17.05.050** **Scope.**
- 17.05.060** **Definitions.**

17.05.010 Short title.

The amendment and restatement of the ordinance codified in this title shall be referred to as the “Yurok Tribal Fishing Rights Ordinance” or “Fishing Rights Ordinance.” [Ord. 44 § 1001, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.05.020 Findings.

(a) The Yurok Tribal Council finds and declares as follows: The Yurok people “have always lived on this sacred and wondrous land along the Pacific Coast and inland on the Klamath River.” Constitution of the Yurok Tribe Preamble. We “prudently harvest and manage the great salmon runs and ... never waste and use every bit of the salmon, ... sturgeon, eel, ... and other ocean and river animals.” *Id.* The Yurok Tribal Court upholds our Constitution and explains that “the Yurok are a fishing people and the Tribe’s Constitution and fishing laws are expressly designed to conserve and restore the severely depleted Klamath River anadromous fishery for current members and future generations.” *Nelson v. Yurok Tribe*, 5 NICS App. 119 (May 7, 1999).

(b) In support of Yurok culture and sovereignty, the Constitution of the Yurok Tribe mandates that the Tribe “restore, enhance, and manage the Tribal fishery, Tribal water rights, Tribal forests and all other natural resources.”

(c) Federal courts also recognize that Yurok people have relied on the Klamath River for its fisheries, cultural rites and traditions since time immemorial. See generally *Kandra v. United States*, 145 F. Supp. 2d 1192, 1201 (D. Or. 2001). For generations, the Yurok Tribe has “depended on the Klamath [C]hinoos salmon for their nourishment and economic livelihood.” *Parravano v. Masten*, 70 F.3d 539, 542 (9th Cir. 1995), *cert. denied*, 518 U.S. 1016 (1996). The Klamath River fishery was “not much less necessary to the existence of the [Yurok] Indians than the atmosphere they breathed.” *Blake v. Arnett*, 663 F.2d 906, 909 (9th Cir. 1981) (quoting *United States v. Winans*, 198 U.S. 371,381 (1905)), *aff’d* 412 U.S. 481 (1973). The original Klamath River Reservation – the precursor to the Yurok Reservation – “abounded in salmon and other fish” and “was ideally selected for the Yuroks.” *Mattz v. Arnett*, 412 U.S. 481, 487 (1973).

(d) The executive orders that created the present-day Yurok Reservation vested the Yurok Tribe with “federally reserved fishing rights.” *Parravano*, 70 F.3d at 541. Yurok’s federally reserved fishing right is well established by federal courts; see *United States v. Eberhardt*, 789 F.2d 1354 (9th Cir. 1986); *United States v. Wilson*, 611 F. Supp. 813 (N.D. Cal.1985); *Pacific Coast Fed. of Fishermen’s Assoc. v. Sec’y of Commerce*, 494 F. Supp. 626 (N.D. Cal. 1980); California courts, see *Arnett v. Five Gill Nets*, 48 Cal. App. 3d 454 (Cal. App. 1975), and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Memorandum Opinion of the Solicitor, John D. Leshy, M-36979 (October 4, 1993) (“Solicitor’s Opinion”).

(e) Federally reserved fishing rights in Yurok Tribal trust fish species of the Klamath River are integral to the Yurok way of life for subsistence, commercial, and cultural purposes. Yurok trust species include, but are not limited to, coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, eel, sturgeon, and eulachon.

(f) Congress has recognized, and the federal judicial and executive branches have confirmed, such as in the 1988 Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act, 25 U.S.C. § 1300i et seq., *Parravano*, 70 F.3d at 539, and in the Solicitor’s Opinion that

the United States has a federal trust responsibility to protect the Yurok Tribe's federally reserved fishery trust resources.

(g) Federal law requires that ocean fishery management plans for Klamath and Trinity River anadromous fish substantively conform to Indian reserved fishing rights, including that of the Yurok Tribe. [16 U.S.C. § 1853\(a\)\(2\)](#).

(h) Harvestable quantities of Tribal trust species and seasonal races must be managed by integrating scientific and traditional methods to sustain Yurok subsistence and commercial fisheries. [Ord. 44 § 1002, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.05.030 Purpose.

The Tribe amends and restates the amended fishing rights ordinance codified in this title in order to:

(a) Protect the Tribe's fishery resources and Tribal fishing rights by establishing procedures for the conservation of fish stocks and exercise of the Tribe's federally reserved fishing rights;

(b) Allow fishing opportunity to Yurok Tribal members while at the same time ensuring adequate spawning escapement and the attainment of conservation objectives;

(c) Restore, enhance, and manage the Tribal fishery by establishing harvest regulations for Tribal trust species and encouraging the sustainable use of Tribal trust species for the health and wellbeing of the Tribe and Yurok Tribal members; and

(d) Protect fundamental Tribal cultural, ceremonial, religious, subsistence, and other traditional harvesting practices. [Ord. 44 § 1003, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.05.040 Reservation of rights.

(a) The Tribe's federally reserved fishing rights are designated for and are to be exercised exclusively by Yurok Tribal members.

(b) Nothing in this title reduces or diminishes the trust responsibility of the United States, including the Secretary of the Interior, to the Yurok Tribe.

(c) The Yurok Tribe retains its authority to exercise its jurisdiction to the fullest extent possible. [Ord. 44 § 1004, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.05.050 Scope.

(a) This title shall govern all Tribal members and non-Tribal members, including nonmember Indians, participating in the Tribal fishery or the Klamath River Indian fishery within the Yurok Reservation, using Tribal

fishery resources or Klamath River Indian fishery resources harvested within the Yurok Reservation, or fishing within the Yurok Reservation.

(b) The provisions of this title and all adjustments apply to the waters within the jurisdiction of the Yurok Tribe as specified in the Constitution of the Yurok Tribe. [Ord. 44 § 1005, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.05.060 Definitions.

“Adjustment” means a pre-season or in-season adjustment to Tribal fishery resource management.

“Amended fishing rights ordinance” means the Yurok Tribal fishing rights ordinance originally adopted on June 4, 1996, amended on June 7, 1996, amended on July 11, 1996, amended on October 7, 1998, amended on July 7, 1999, and amended on July 18, 2007, and in effect immediately preceding the effective date of this amendment and restatement.

“Anadromous fish” means all species, stocks and races of salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, eulachon, sturgeon, eel, or other species of anadromous fish as that term is commonly defined.

“Angling or pole fishing” means the taking or attempted taking of fish by hook and line, usually attached to a rod, with the line closely attended in such a manner that the fish voluntarily takes the hook in its mouth.

“Assist” means providing aid to an eligible fisher in placing, checking, or removing fishing gear from the water, removing any fish caught with the gear, or being in the boat while fishing.

“Barter” means the exchange of goods or productive services for other goods or productive services without the use of money or monetary equivalents such as gift cards.

“Ceremony” means a gathering consisting principally of Yurok Indians for any solemn, religious or cultural observance on a traditional basis, including funerals.

“Channel” means the deeper part of the Klamath River, which generally includes the main waterflow course within the Klamath River.

“Chute” means the narrow portion of the Klamath River estuary where the river passes through the sand spit to meet the ocean.

“Clip” means the complete removal of the dorsal fin of a salmon or steelhead to within one-half inch of the fish's back.

“Clipped fish” means a fish that has had its dorsal fin clipped.

“Closed” or “closure” refers to waters or areas closed to one or more methods of Tribal fishing for a specified period unless otherwise authorized.

“Commercial fish” means any Chinook salmon, or part of such fish, taken within the commercial zone, during the commercial season, by a commercial fisher having a commercial buoy on the net, and handled according to the quality control requirements and other commercial regulations laid out in this title.

“Commercial fisher” means an eligible fisher certified for commercial fishing.

“Commercial fishing” means fishing with the intent to use any fish taken, or part of such fish, for commercial use.

“Commercial fishing rights” means the privilege of eligible fishers to fish during a commercial season regulated pursuant to this title.

“Commercial use” means an income-generating use, such as sale, trade, or exchange for money, gift cards, or other type of income, but does not include barter or subsistence use.

“Commercial use permit” means a Find Own Market or value added permit.

“Commercial zone” is the part of the estuary above the downstream boundary and below the Highway 101 bridge, excluding all sloughs.

“Council” or “Tribal Council” means the Yurok Tribal Council.

“Cultural Committee” means the Yurok Tribe Cultural Committee with representatives designated by Council.

“Dip net” or “trigger net” means a section of netting distended by a rigid frame operated by hand.

“Drift net” means a gillnet which is not staked, anchored or weighted but drifts free, including a throw net.

“Eel” means Pacific lamprey, an anadromous fish.

“Eel basket” or “eel trap” means a piece of fishing gear, which can be made from traditional or nontraditional materials such as wire mesh, consisting of a trap made specifically for catching eel.

“Eel hook” means a hook attached to a pole used for catching eels and may be made of traditional or nontraditional materials.

“Eligible fisher” means any Yurok Tribal member who is determined to be eligible in accordance with Chapter 17.10 YTC.

“Enforcement officer” means a Yurok Tribe Department of Public Safety Officer or warden, or a person designated by the Yurok Tribal Council to enforce this title.

“Fish” or “fishing” means the fishing for, catching, or taking, or the attempted fishing for, catching, or taking, of any fish.

“Fish monitor” means Yurok Tribal staff hired to monitor the Tribal fishery harvest.

“Fisher” means any person, including Yurok Tribal members and non-Tribal members, who participates in or uses resources from the Tribal fishery.

“Fisher identification card” or “identification card” means a Tribal identification card issued by the Yurok Tribe to a Tribal member, and includes the name, address, birthdate, color of hair, color of eyes, height, weight, identification number, and photograph of the Tribal member.

“Fishing gear” or “gear” means any net, seine, hook and line, boat, trailer, vehicle, gun or other apparatus used for taking, attempting to take, or transporting fish.

“FOM” means Find Own Market.

“FRO” means the Yurok Tribal fishing rights ordinance.

“Gillnet” means a flat net suspended vertically in the water with meshes that allow the head of the fish to pass through and become entangled and includes set nets, drift nets, and throw nets.

“Guide” means a Yurok Tribal member certified by the Yurok Tribe and authorized to act as a guide for the Tribal Guide Fishery.

“HMP” means harvest management plan.

“Indian” means an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe.

“Identification number” means the identification number assigned by the Yurok Tribe to a Yurok Tribal member.

“Ineligible fisher” means a person who is not an eligible fisher, including nonmember Indians and non-Tribal members.

“Marine mammal” means all species of seals, sea lions, otters, whales and such other species as defined by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1361 et seq.

“Natural resources committee” means the Yurok Tribe natural resources committee with representatives designated by Council.

“Nonmember Indian” means a person who is a member of a federally recognized tribe and is not a Yurok Tribal member.

“Non-Tribal member” means nonmember Indians and non-Indians.

“Participate in a fishery” means to take part or engage in a fishery, including fishing or assisting another with fishing in that fishery.

“Reservation” or “Yurok Reservation” means all lands within the exterior boundaries of the Yurok Reservation.

“River” means the wetted area from bank to bank of the Klamath River.

“Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior or his or her designated representative.

“Set net” means a gillnet that is staked, anchored, or weighted on at least one end so that it does not drift free.

“Snag gear” means any hooking implement to catch or hold fish, with or without handles, making possible the taking of fish in such a manner that the fish does not take the hook voluntarily in its mouth.

“Subsistence fish” means any fish, or part of such fish, taken for subsistence use and as further defined in this title.

“Subsistence fishing” means fishing with the intent to use any fish taken for subsistence use.

“Subsistence use” means use for either:

- (1) Direct personal, family, or community consumption for food or barter; or
- (2) Trade or sale to a Yurok Tribal member for direct personal, family, or community consumption as food; or
- (3) The Elders’ Fishery.

“Take” means the pursuing, capturing, harvesting or the attempted pursuit, capture or harvest of fish.

“Throw net” means a gillnet without an anchor that is no more than 30 feet in length and is placed in the water by throwing from shore.

“Trade” means the act or business of buying or selling for money or a monetary equivalent such as gift cards.

“Traditional use” means a long-established, consistent pattern of use, incorporating Yurok beliefs and customs which have been transmitted from generation to generation, including trade, barter, and uses for cultural, ceremonial, religious, subsistence, and other traditional practices.

“Transporting fish” means taking or carrying fish from one place to another by means of a vehicle, including a boat, and includes moving fish more than 25 feet from the wetted channel of the Klamath River, having fish on a road, or moving fish on land more than 200 feet from the fishing site.

“Tribal allocation” means that number and type of fish allocated from the Tribal fishery to the Yurok Tribe pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

“Tribal Court” means the Yurok Tribal Court, which was established by Chapter 1.10 YTC, Judicial Branch.

“Tribal fishery” means the Klamath River Indian fishery within the exterior boundaries of the Yurok Reservation, including the subsistence and commercial fisheries regulated by this title.

“Tribal fishery resource” means any anadromous fish or freshwater fish species found within the Yurok Reservation, but excluding marine species.

“Tribal member” or “Yurok Tribal member” means a duly enrolled member of the Yurok Tribe listed on the Yurok Tribal membership roll. [Ord. 44 § 1011, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

Chapter 17.10

FISHER REQUIREMENTS

Sections:

- 17.10.010 Eligible fishers.**
- 17.10.020 Non-Tribal member fishing generally prohibited.**
- 17.10.030 Fishing by minors.**
- 17.10.040 Assistance by ineligible fisher prohibited.**
- 17.10.050 Claiming fish of another prohibited.**
- 17.10.060 Identification card required.**
- 17.10.070 Use of another's identification prohibited.**
- 17.10.080 Fishing with the identification number of elderly or handicapped.**
- 17.10.090 Emergency assistance.**

17.10.010 Eligible fishers.

A Yurok Tribal member who has a valid Yurok Tribal identification card is an eligible fisher and may exercise Tribal fishing rights under the authority of this title. [Ord. 44 § 1101, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.10.020 Non-Tribal member fishing generally prohibited.

(a) A non-Tribal member may not participate in the Klamath River fishery within the Yurok Reservation, including the subsistence, commercial, or Tribal Guide Fisheries, except in compliance with any of the following:

- (1) A nonmember Indian may fish for eel on the Yurok Reservation if the nonmember Indian obtains a fishing license from the Yurok Tribe in accordance with YTC [17.35.070](#) and abides by the restrictions on that license and applicable California state fishing regulations. Any eel taken pursuant to this subsection is not part of the Klamath River Indian or Tribal fishery and instead is part of the California nonIndian fishery.
- (2) A non-Indian may fish within the Yurok Reservation if the non-Indian obtains a California state fishing license, abides by all California state fishing regulations applicable to non-Indians, and does not assert that such fishing is pursuant to any federal reserved or aboriginal fishing right. Any fish taken pursuant to this subsection is not part of the Klamath River Indian or Tribal fishery and instead is part of the California non-Indian fishery.
- (3) A non-Tribal member may fish within the Yurok Reservation if the non-Tribal member obtains a fishing license from the Yurok Tribe in accordance with YTC [17.35.070](#) and meets all other requirements for participation in the Tribal Guide Fishery.
- (4) Nonmember Indians may take only up to five eels per day and shall only use an eel hook to fish for eels.

(5) If approved in advance by the Tribal Council, nonmember Indians may take in excess of the five-eel limit for purposes of trading with Yurok or other nonmember Indians.

(6) According to traditional Yurok fishing custom, only males may fish for eels. Therefore, only males will be issued Yurok fishing licenses to take eels.

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. A nonmember Indian who fishes for eel in violation of this section additionally shall be suspended for one year from eel fishing on the Yurok Reservation. [Ord. 44 § 1102, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.10.030 Fishing by minors.

(a) *Fishers Under 12 Years.* A fisher younger than 12 years old cannot fish:

(1) With his or her own net, including gillnets and dip nets, in the estuary unless accompanied by an eligible fisher over 18 years old.

(2) Commercially with his or her own number, but can participate in a commercial fishery under the supervision of a commercial fisher per YTC [17.25.080](#).

(b) *Adult Responsibility.* A fisher less than 12 years old cannot be charged with a violation of this title. If a fisher less than 12 years old engages in conduct which, but for the age of the fisher, would constitute a violation of this title, an adult may be charged with the violation if:

(1) The adult is the parent or responsible guardian of the child; or

(2) The adult was the owner of any fishing equipment being used by the child at the time of the conduct constituting the violation.

(c) *Violation.* A violation of this section results in a level one offense. [Ord. 44 § 1103, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.10.040 Assistance by ineligible fisher prohibited.

Only eligible fishers may participate in the Tribal fishery on the Yurok Reservation. Ineligible fishers may assist with cleaning fish on shore or dock, but they otherwise may not assist in the Tribal fishery on the water in any way. Assisting in the Tribal fishery includes setting or tending nets, removing fish from a net, providing aid to an eligible fisher in placing fishing gear, checking fishing gear, or removing gear from the water, or being in a boat with an individual that has a net deployed.

An eligible fisher who allows an ineligible fisher to assist in the Tribal fishery, and an ineligible fisher who assists in the Tribal fishery, in violation of this section commits a level three offense. [Ord. 44 § 1104, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.10.050 Claiming fish of another prohibited.

No fisher may claim a fish that was taken by an ineligible fisher and sell that fish during commercial season.

A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1105, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.10.060 Identification card required.

An eligible fisher shall obtain a Yurok Tribal identification card and have such card on his or her person while fishing or transporting fish taken on the Yurok Reservation and within the jurisdiction of the Yurok Tribe. An eligible fisher shall produce his or her Yurok Tribal identification card upon request by an enforcement officer. A non-Tribal member fisher shall produce his or her official state or other non-Yurok Tribal identification upon request by an enforcement officer.

A person commits a level two offense if the fisher violates this section. If a fisher offers proof to the Tribal Court of his or her valid identification, the offense level shall be reduced to a level one offense. [Ord. 44 § 1106, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.10.070 Use of another's identification prohibited.

No fisher may use the identification card or identification number of another eligible fisher, except a fisher permitted in accordance with YTC [17.10.080](#).

A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1107, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.10.080 Fishing with the identification number of elderly or handicapped.

Subsistence fishing by an eligible fisher with the identification number and gear of an elderly or handicapped Yurok Tribal member is permissible with a permit listing any elderly or handicapped Tribal member for whom the eligible fisher is authorized to fish. An eligible fisher can apply for a permit by submitting an application to the Weitchpec Tribal office manager or the Klamath Tribal Office Council support staff, who are authorized to issue such permits as directed by the Council.

A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1108, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.10.090 Emergency assistance.

Nothing in this title or an adjustment shall prohibit an eligible fisher from requesting or giving assistance to anyone where the person needing assistance is faced with an emergency situation that could lead to injury, loss of life, or loss of substantial gear. [Ord. 44 § 1109, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

Chapter 17.15 FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Sections:

- 17.15.010 Fisheries management.**
- 17.15.020 Harvest management and quota.**
- 17.15.030 Fishery management areas.**
- 17.15.040 Tribal fishery – Subsistence, commercial, and Tribal Guide Fisheries.**
- 17.15.050 Downstream boundary for fishing.**
- 17.15.060 Fishing in a tributary.**
- 17.15.070 Closure of sloughs in estuary during commercial season.**
- 17.15.080 Fishery closures.**
- 17.15.090 Blue Creek closure.**
- 17.15.100 Permitted gear.**
- 17.15.110 Attendance of nets in the estuary.**
- 17.15.120 Assistance with attendance of nets.**
- 17.15.130 Marking of nets.**
- 17.15.140 Use of identification numbers on nets.**
- 17.15.150 Dip net fishing.**
- 17.15.160 Angling.**
- 17.15.170 Drift net fishing.**
- 17.15.180 Gillnet fishing.**
- 17.15.190 Set net fishing.**
- 17.15.200 Eel fishing.**
- 17.15.210 Sturgeon fishing.**
- 17.15.220 Scientific studies.**
- 17.15.230 Fish waste prohibited.**
- 17.15.240 Fish theft.**
- 17.15.250 Sale of Chinook roe.**
- 17.15.260 Cleaning fish at Requa.**
- 17.15.270 Protecting gear from marine mammals.**

17.15.280 Expired.**17.15.010 Fisheries management.**

The Yurok Tribal Council shall manage and regulate the Tribal fishery pursuant to this title and any adjustment.

The Tribal fishery harvest shall be managed by the Tribe to balance the protection, conservation, and restoration of Tribal fishery resources and the meaningful exercise of Tribal federally reserved fishing rights. [Ord. 44 § 1201, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.020 Harvest management and quota.

The Council by adjustment may specify quotas, subquotas, reserve quotas, and fishing hours for the Tribal fishery. Harvest of adult fall Chinook salmon is based upon the harvestable surplus for the Klamath River, which is determined pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and establishes specific harvest allocations for the Klamath River Indian and nonIndian fisheries. The Tribe is entitled to sufficient ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial fish to meet the fishing purposes for which the Reservation was created. The Klamath River harvest allocation is intended to provide adequate natural spawning escapement in the Klamath River and the propagation of the species. [Ord. 44 § 1202, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.030 Fishery management areas.

This title establishes the following management areas and permitted fishery uses, which may be altered by an adjustment:

- (a) *Estuary*. The mainstem Klamath River from the river mouth to the Highway 101 bridge may be used for subsistence, commercial, and Tribal Guide Fisheries.
- (b) *Middle Klamath*. The mainstem Klamath River from the Highway 101 bridge upstream to Surpur Creek may be used for subsistence, smoked salmon value added, and Tribal Guide Fisheries.
- (c) *Upper Klamath*. The mainstem Klamath River from Surpur Creek to the upstream boundary of the Yurok Reservation may be used for subsistence, smoked salmon value added, and Tribal Guide Fisheries. [Ord. 44 § 1203, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.040 Tribal fishery – Subsistence, commercial, and Tribal Guide Fisheries.

- (a) The Tribal fishery is divided into the subsistence fishery, commercial fishery, and the Tribal Guide Fishery.

(b) The subsistence fishery includes the Elders' Fishery, which authorizes sales to the Tribe or an entity designated by the Tribe to purchase fish for distribution to Tribal member elders and disabled Tribal members.

(c) The commercial fishery is subdivided for purposes of managing commercial sales and permits into the following fisheries:

(1) *Requa Sales Fishery*. The Requa Sales Fishery authorizes direct sales to Tribally designated buyers at Requa.

(2) *Find Own Market Fishery*. The Find Own Market or FOM fishery authorizes sales of fresh Chinook salmon to non-Tribal member buyers that are found by the eligible fisher.

(3) *Value Added Fishery*. The Value Added Fishery authorizes sales of frozen and vacuum-sealed or glazed fall Chinook salmon and of smoked, processed, and vacuum-sealed fall Chinook salmon. [Ord. 44 § 1204, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.050 Downstream boundary for fishing.

(a) Special regulations will apply to fishing in the lower end of the estuary. The downstream boundary shall be located as specified in an adjustment for each fishing season. Buoys or other markers will be located along the downstream boundary for net fishing. While these markers may move from time to time, the location of the downstream boundary shall be as stated in the adjustment, regardless of the position of any markers. Due to unforeseen circumstances, however, these markers may not be in place at all times. Any determination of the downstream boundary shall be at the reasonable discretion of enforcement officers. An officer may, but is not required to, notify a fisher that he or she is fishing below the downstream boundary before issuing a citation.

(b) If an anchor rope of a set net is more than 10 feet below the downstream boundary, the net will be considered to be set below the line.

(c) Fishing below the downstream boundary shall be regulated as follows, or as stated in an adjustment:

(1) *Drift Net*.

(A) During the commercial season, drift net fishing below the downstream boundary is prohibited.

(B) Except during the commercial season, drift net fishing below the downstream boundary is permitted with a maximum of a 30-foot throw net.

(C) Motorized vehicles, boats, jet skis, or other floating objects cannot be used to assist with setting throw nets.

(2) *Dip Net*.

(A) During the commercial season, dip net fishing below the downstream boundary is prohibited.

(B) Except during the commercial season ends, dip net fishing below the downstream boundary is generally permitted.

(3) *Set Net.* Set net fishing below the downstream boundary is prohibited. All set nets must have their entire cork line above the downstream boundary.

(4) *Angling.* Angling below the downstream boundary is prohibited for commercial fishing, but is permitted for subsistence fishing. There shall be no catch-and-release fishing below the downstream boundary.

(5) *Net Fishing in Chute Prohibited.* In accordance with subsections [\(c\)\(1\)\(A\)](#) and [\(c\)\(2\)\(A\)](#) of this section, no person shall use a drift net or dip net in the chute during the commercial season. Set nets are prohibited in the chute.

(d) A person commits a level three offense if the person violates subsections [\(c\)\(1\)](#) through [\(c\)\(3\)](#) of this section. A person commits a level two offense if the person violates subsection [\(c\)\(4\)](#) of this section. A person commits a level four offense if the person violates subsection [\(c\)\(5\)](#) of this section. A violation of each subsection shall constitute a separate offense. [Ord. 44 § 1205, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.060 Fishing in a tributary.

(a) No gillnet or dip net may be used in any tributary creek of either the Klamath or Trinity River or within 100 feet of the mouth of any of the following creeks:

Ah Pah Creek	Johnson Creek	Surpur Creek
Blue Creek	McGarvey Creek	Tarup Creek
Bear Creek	Metah Creek	Tectah Creek
Cappell Creek	Pecwan Creek	Terwer Creek
Omagar Creek	Pine Creek	Tulley Creek
Hoppaw Creek	Roach Creek	Waukell Creek
Hunter Creek	Salt Creek	

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1206, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.070 Closure of sloughs in estuary during commercial season.

(a) In addition to the downstream boundary, no fishing for salmon will be permitted during the commercial season in the sloughs immediately connected to the estuary, including the slough near Williams Rock, Panther Creek and associated slough, and the South slough.

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1207, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.080 Fishery closures.

- (a) *Fishery Closures.* The Council by adjustment may specify closures of the subsistence, commercial, and Tribal Guide Fisheries, including by date, time, or management area.
- (b) *Monday Closures.* The Tribal fishery is closed every Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday closure), except on Memorial Day, Labor Day, or the Fourth of July when that holiday falls on a Monday, or as otherwise specified by an adjustment.
- (c) *Stock Protection Closures.* Stock protection closures may be necessary to spread harvest impacts between Klamath River Basin and Trinity River Basin stocks, or to protect coho salmon stocks, which have been listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Tribe may implement stock protection closures, including varying coho salmon protection closures, as necessary by an adjustment.
- (d) *Coho Protection Closures.* A coho protection closure shall take effect on September 25th of each year, unless an earlier date is specified by an adjustment, and continue until November 30th of that year. The Tribal fishery during the coho protection closure shall be closed Monday at 9:00 a.m. through Wednesday 9:00 a.m. of each week (Monday through Wednesday morning closure), or as specified by an adjustment.
- (e) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1208, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.090 Blue Creek closure.

- (a) Fishing is prohibited from 500 feet upstream to one-half mile downstream from the upstream bedrock cliff at the mouth of Blue Creek from June 15th through November 30th to protect the thermal refugia and to protect fish returning to Blue Creek and staging at its mouth. The boundary limits and timing of closure may be altered or specified by an adjustment.
- (b) A person commits a level three offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1209, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.100 Permitted gear.

- (a) *Authorized Gear.* Eligible fishers may use the following gear:
- (1) Set net;
 - (2) Gillnet;
 - (3) Hand dip net or trigger net;
 - (4) Drift net;
 - (5) Eel basket;

- (6) Eel hook; and
- (7) Hook, line, and rod.

(b) *Unauthorized Gear.* Fishers may not fish within the Yurok Reservation with the following gear:

- (1) Any gear not specifically authorized for that fisher in subsection [\(a\)](#) of this section;
- (2) Traps, except eel traps;
- (3) Wire;
- (4) Fencing material;
- (5) Snag gear;
- (6) Stunning agents;
- (7) Explosives; and
- (8) Caustic or lethal chemicals in any form.

(c) A person commits a level three offense if the person fishes on the Yurok Reservation with unauthorized gear, except the use of gear identified in subsections [\(b\)\(7\)](#) and [\(b\)\(8\)](#) of this section shall be a level four offense. Any gear used or possessed in violation of this subsection shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture. [Ord. 44 § 1210, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.110 Attendance of nets in the estuary.

(a) Nets in the estuary must be constantly attended at all times from August 1st through November 30th. A net is considered unattended if the eligible fisher is more than 500 feet or out of direct line of sight from his or her net that is in the water. A person may leave for up to 30 minutes in a four-hour period for a bathroom break.

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1211, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.120 Assistance with attendance of nets.

Eligible fishers may assist other eligible fishers to attend a net if the eligible fisher who owns the net is within 500 feet of the fishing location. An eligible fisher may ask another eligible fisher to attend his or her net while that person takes a bathroom break for up to 30 minutes. The intent of this regulation is to expedite proper handling of fish during times of abundant harvest. [Ord. 44 § 1212, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.130 Marking of nets.

- (a) *Unmarked Net.* Each eligible fisher shall indelibly and conspicuously mark his or her Tribal identification number on a float or cork attached to either end of any gillnet being used so that the number is obvious without removing the gear from the water. This requirement does not apply to throw nets used in the chute.
- (b) *Mismarked Net.* Only one identification number may be on a net. Any net marked with more than one identification number shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture together with any fish contained therein.
- (c) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1213, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.140 Use of identification numbers on nets.

- (a) *Use of Identification Number by Another Prohibited.* No eligible fisher shall authorize the use of his or her identification number on a net fished by another person. This responsibility shall not act to relieve another person of liability for any conduct charged.
- (b) *Fishing with Identification Number of Another Prohibited.* No eligible Indian fisher may attend or fish a net that is not marked with his or her own identification number.
- (c) *Exceptions.* Notwithstanding subsections [\(a\)](#) and [\(b\)](#) of this section, an eligible fisher may fish with the identification number of another, or authorize another eligible fisher to use his or her identification number, if:
- (1) The eligible fisher whose identification number is on the net is within 500 feet of the net and has given his or her permission;
 - (2) The eligible fisher maintains an elders' fishing permit and uses the identification number of that elder; or
 - (3) Such use is authorized by an adjustment.
- (d) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates subsection [\(a\)](#) or [\(b\)](#) of this section and does not meet an exception under subsection [\(c\)](#) of this section. A violation of each subsection shall constitute a separate offense. [Ord. 44 § 1214, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.150 Dip net fishing.

- (a) Dip net fishing by eligible fishers is permitted, except during closures or as otherwise provided in YTC [17.15.050](#), this title, or an adjustment.
- (b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1215, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.160 Angling.

Angling for subsistence is permitted throughout the Reservation at all times, except during the coho closure or as otherwise provided in this title or an adjustment. Salmon and steelhead caught by angling must have the dorsal fin clipped, unless it is a fall Chinook salmon caught within the estuary during an open commercial fishery. [Ord. 44 § 1216, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.170 Drift net fishing.

(a) Drift net fishing is permitted except:

- (1) *Yield to Set Nets.* A drift net fisher must yield to set nets;
- (2) *Fifty-Foot Separation.* A drift net fisher must maintain a 50-foot separation from other drift and set nets; and
- (3) As otherwise provided in YTC [17.15.050](#), this title, or an adjustment.

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. A violation of each subsection shall constitute a separate offense. [Ord. 44 § 1217, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.180 Gillnet fishing.

(a) Gillnet fishing by eligible fishers is permitted, except:

- (1) *Monday Closure.* No gillnet may be in the water Monday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. as specified in YTC [17.15.080](#);
- (2) *Maximum Length.* An eligible fisher may not use more than 100 feet of gillnet, which may be divided into two or more separate gillnets;
- (3) *Anchoring.* No gillnet may be anchored to any boat dock without permission;
- (4) *Blocking Dock and Ramp Traffic.* No gillnet may be placed in such a manner as to impede boat traffic from docking at or departing from any boat dock or ramp; and
- (5) As otherwise provided in YTC [17.15.050](#), this title, or an adjustment.

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. A violation of each subsection shall constitute a separate offense. [Ord. 44 § 1218, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.190 Set net fishing.

(a) Set net fishing by eligible fishers is permitted, except:

(1) *Fifty-Foot Separation.* A set net fisher must maintain a 50-foot separation from other drift and set nets. If two set nets are less than 50 feet apart, then the net that was moved last shall be considered to be the net at fault.

(2) *Placement along Downstream Boundary.* All set nets must have their entire cork line above the downstream boundary. If a fisher is determined by an enforcement officer to be below the downstream boundary, that fisher shall be required to remove his or her net and move back in the order to the next available spot.

(3) *Set Net Fishing Hole Locations.* Set net fishing hole locations shall be determined by the individual eligible fishers in accordance with tradition and custom. Claims by eligible fishers to fishing holes that cannot be resolved amicably by the disputing parties shall be resolved pursuant to YTC [17.50.040](#).

(4) *Blocking River Channel.* No set net or combination of set nets, staggered or joined, may be placed in such a way that the set net or nets extend more than one-half of the distance across any channel within a 100-foot stretch of the river in the Upper or Middle Klamath.

(5) As otherwise provided in YTC [17.15.050](#), this title, or an adjustment.

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. A violation of each subsection shall constitute a separate offense. [Ord. 44 § 1219, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.200 Eel fishing.

(a) Eel fishing with an eel hook or eel trap by eligible fishers is generally permitted except as otherwise provided in this title or an adjustment.

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. In addition to the penalties prescribed for a level two offense, a non-Tribal member fisher who violates this section shall be penalized as specified in YTC [17.10.020](#). [Ord. 44 § 1220, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.210 Sturgeon fishing.

(a) Sturgeon fishing by eligible fishers is generally permitted except:

(1) *Barter and Sale Prohibited.* Sturgeon are subsistence fish, but no fisher shall barter, trade, or sell sturgeon for commercial or subsistence use. Sturgeon is only for direct subsistence by a Tribal member and his or her family and may not be bartered with anyone, including with Tribal members.

(2) *Release of Large Sturgeon.* A fisher shall release all sturgeon six feet or longer, measured in a straight line from the nose to the tip of the tail.

(3) *Holding of Sturgeon.* A fisher shall not hold sturgeon alive, except while the fisher is tending his or her net or processing fish on site. Any sturgeon found alive shall be released if it appears healthy enough to survive, otherwise the sturgeon will be confiscated and distributed to elders.

(4) *Harvest Number.* A fisher shall not harvest more than one sturgeon per day.

(5) *Land Transportation.* A fisher shall not transport by land more than one sturgeon at a time, unless the fisher has a valid transportation permit issued by the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program or the Yurok Tribe Department of Public Safety on the day the sturgeon was harvested and names that person as eligible to transport.

(6) As otherwise provided in this title or an adjustment.

(b) A person commits a level three offense if the person violates this section. A violation of each subsection shall constitute a separate offense. [Ord. 44 § 1221, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.220 Scientific studies.

(a) *Interference Prohibited.* Adjustments may be adopted as necessary to ensure that no fishing occurs which may interfere with any scientific study authorized by the Tribe.

(b) *Test Fisheries.* Test fisheries, including trapping, netting, and electrofishing, may be conducted by employees of fisheries management agencies working on the Reservation for resource management purposes. Both Tribal and non-Tribal agencies and personnel must obtain a permit to conduct such studies from the Tribal Council. Tribal members may observe test fishery operations by making arrangements with the agency conducting the activity.

(c) *Notice.* Notice of a scientific study or test fishery shall be posted at the Klamath and Weitchpec Tribal administrative offices, the Requa boat ramp, and other places as determined by the Tribal Council.

(d) *Collection of Coded Wire Tags and Cooperation with Fish Monitors.* Fishers are required to cooperate with fish monitors. The snouts of Chinook with an adipose fin clip must be given to Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program staff upon request. The information obtained from the coded wire tags recovered from such fish is critical to the successful management of Klamath River fall Chinook. Sampling must be allowed even if the fish have been packed in ice or are intended for commercial use.

(e) A person commits a level three offense if the person interferes with a properly noticed scientific study or test fishery, or fails to provide a snout of a Chinook salmon upon request. [Ord. 44 § 1222, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.230 Fish waste prohibited.

(a) Fishers must exercise care to ensure that no fish are wasted.

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1223, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.240 Fish theft.

- (a) The theft of fish from nets, boats, smokehouses or other locations and the theft of fishing gear or boats is strictly prohibited. Complaints of fish theft must be initiated by the individual who owns the property taken.
- (b) A person commits a level four offense if the person violates this section. Restitution shall be required in the amount of three times fair market value. [Ord. 44 § 1224, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.250 Sale of Chinook roe.

- (a) Eligible fishers may sell roe from Chinook salmon from August 1st to November 30th, or as specified by an adjustment. The sale of roe from any fish other than Chinook salmon is prohibited.
- (b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1225, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.260 Cleaning fish at Requa.

- (a) Cleaning of fish at the Requa Resort, docks, and boat ramp areas is prohibited except at designated fish cleaning stations. Fish parts may not be placed in dumpsters at these areas.
- (b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1226, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.270 Protecting gear from marine mammals.

- (a) Eligible fishers may protect their fishing gear and their person from damage or threat by marine mammals. Fishers shall only use seal bombs, pellet or BB air guns, slingshots, and shotguns to protect their gear. The eligible fisher protecting his or her gear shall ensure that any marine mammal carcass is used by Tribal members in a manner consistent with traditional customs and practice.
- (b) A person commits a level three offense if the person violates this section. In addition to the penalties prescribed for a level two offense, any person who violates this section shall forfeit any weapon used to commit the violation. [Ord. 44 § 1227, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.15.280 Sturgeon and spring Chinook conservation regulations.

Expired.

Chapter 17.20

SUBSISTENCE FISHERY

Sections:

- 17.20.010** Subsistence fishery.
- 17.20.020** Subsistence fishing generally permitted.
- 17.20.030** Subsistence fish.
- 17.20.040** Use of subsistence fish.
- 17.20.050** Dorsal fin clip of subsistence salmon and steelhead.
- 17.20.060** Sale of subsistence fish prohibited.
- 17.20.070** Ceremonial fishing.
- 17.20.080** Sea lion hunt.
- 17.20.090** Bartering fish.
- 17.20.100** Fish for cookout by permit.
- 17.20.110** Elders' Fishery.

17.20.010 Subsistence fishery.

The subsistence fishery is separate from the commercial fishery and the Tribal Guide Fishery, but includes the Elders' Fishery. The subsistence fishery authorizes Yurok Tribal members to take fish (a) for direct personal, family, or community consumption for food, barter, or trade; (b) for sale to a Yurok Tribal member for direct personal, family, or community consumption as food; or (c) for the Elders' Fishery. [Ord. 44 § 1301, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.20.020 Subsistence fishing generally permitted.

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Yurok Tribe, subsistence fishing by eligible fishers is generally permitted except as managed pursuant to this title or an adjustment. [Ord. 44 § 1302, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.20.030 Subsistence fish.

Subsistence fish are all fish that are not commercial and include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Any dorsal fin clipped salmon or steelhead;
- (b) Any fish caught outside of the commercial season;
- (c) Any fish that is not a Chinook salmon;
- (d) Any Chinook salmon caught during commercial season that:

- (1) Meets the requirements for the Elders' Fishery; or
- (2) Has not been handled in accordance with the commercial fish quality control requirements of YTC [17.25.160](#); or
- (3) Has been harvested in a net not marked with a commercial buoy; or
- (4) Is located outside of the estuary or is transported by land without a commercial use permit; or
- (5) Was caught below the downstream boundary; or
- (6) Was harvested by, purchased by, or is in the possession of, a fisher not certified for commercial fishing. [Ord. 44 § 1303, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.20.040 Use of subsistence fish.

Barter, trade, or sale of fish to Yurok Tribal members for direct consumption as food shall be generally permitted. Bartering of fish must be conducted in accordance with YTC [17.20.090](#). Barter, trade, or sale of sturgeon is prohibited. Spring Chinook salmon may not be sold. The Tribal Council may impose any limitations on subsistence that are necessary to protect fishery resources or to ensure that all fish caught are used for subsistence purposes. [Ord. 44 § 1304, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.20.050 Dorsal fin clip of subsistence salmon and steelhead.

- (a) All subsistence salmon and all steelhead must have the dorsal fin completely removed to within onehalf inch of the fish's back, except Chinook salmon that meet Elders' Fishery requirements in YTC [17.20.110](#) are not to be clipped. The dorsal fin must be removed prior to cleaning, gutting, or transporting and within 15 minutes of first handling the fish. Any salmon taken in the Middle or Upper Klamath, including salmon to be smoked for commercial use, must be clipped. Failure to clip the dorsal fin on a Chinook defined as subsistence will create the rebuttable presumption that the fish is a commercial fish.
- (b) A person commits a level three offense if the person possesses an unclipped salmon or steelhead:
 - (1) Outside of the estuary without a commercial use permit; or
 - (2) Within the estuary without a commercial fishing license or without meeting Elders' Fishery requirements; or
 - (3) On land without a commercial use permit. [Ord. 44 § 1305, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.20.060 Sale of subsistence fish prohibited.

Selling a subsistence fish to a non-Tribal member, with or without an intact dorsal fin, leaving the dorsal fin intact on a salmon defined as subsistence, or leaving the dorsal fin intact on a steelhead is prohibited.

A person commits a level four offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1306, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.20.070 Ceremonial fishing.

(a) Ceremonial fishing may be conducted at any time, except ceremonial fishing during a closure may only be conducted pursuant to a special permit issued by the Tribal Council. The Yurok Tribal Council may impose any conditions on the permittee that are necessary to protect fishery resources or to ensure that all fish caught are used for ceremonial purposes.

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1307, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.20.080 Sea lion hunt.

A sea lion hunt consistent with Yurok Tribe traditional practices is allowable with an approved harvest management plan for this species. [Ord. 44 § 1308, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.20.090 Bartering fish.

(a) Only subsistence fish may be bartered, and all subsistence salmon and steelhead must have the dorsal fin clipped. Eligible fishers may barter fish with anyone except:

- (1) No eligible fisher may barter more than 10 fish to any one individual within a 30day period;
- (2) No eligible fisher may barter more than 30 fish within a 30-day period;
- (3) Bartered fish cannot be sold or bartered by the recipient; and
- (4) Barter is for goods or services only. Prepaid credit cards, gift cards, gas cards, and other instruments that can be used to purchase goods and services are not valid for barter.

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates subsections [\(a\)\(1\)](#) through [\(a\)\(3\)](#). A person commits a level three offense if the person violates subsection [\(a\)\(4\)](#) of this section. [Ord. 44 § 1309, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.20.100 Fish for cookout by permit.

(a) Use of fish for community functions and cookouts may be authorized pursuant to a special permit issued by the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council may impose any conditions on the permittee that are necessary to protect the fishery resources or to assure that all fish caught are used for the stated purpose. Proceeds from the cookout may be used as specified by the permit and for direct costs incurred for the cookout, but not for labor involved with the cookout or the purchase of fish for the cookout.

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1310, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.20.110 Elders' Fishery.

Eligible fishers are generally permitted and encouraged to give fish to elders. The Tribe may establish an Elders' Fishery to provide a mechanism to furnish additional fish to elders. The Elders' Fishery permits authorized eligible fishers to sell fresh Chinook salmon to the Tribe for distribution to elders and disabled Tribal members in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) *Commercial Certification Required.* A fisher must have had the required training and signed the commercial fisher's contract.

(b) *Commercial Buoy Required.* A fisher must use a commercial buoy.

(c) *Estuary Fish.* The fish must be harvested from the estuary.

(d) *Adult Fish.* Donated fish must be adult Chinook.

(e) *Unclipped Fish.* The fisher must not clip the dorsal fin of elders' fish.

(f) *Commercial Quality Control Standards.* The fish must be handled in accordance with the Commercial Fish Quality Control Requirements.

(g) *Transport of Fish.* The fisher making the sale must transport the fish to the buying station at Requa by boat and cannot transport the fish by land.

(h) Any additional requirement established by an adjustment. [Ord. 44 § 1311, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

Chapter 17.25 COMMERCIAL FISHERY

Sections:

17.25.010 Commercial fishery.

17.25.020 Commercial fishing prohibited except as authorized.

17.25.030 Commercial fishing by management area.

- 17.25.040 Commercial fisheries.**
- 17.25.050 Species eligible for sale – Authorized sales.**
- 17.25.060 Commercial fish.**
- 17.25.070 Commercial season and closures.**
- 17.25.080 Commercial certification required.**
- 17.25.090 Commercial fishing with suspended rights prohibited.**
- 17.25.100 Commercial buoy required.**
- 17.25.110 Use of another’s commercial buoy prohibited.**
- 17.25.120 Use of commercial license numbers on nets.**
- 17.25.130 Unoccupied boats – Buoys.**
- 17.25.140 Anchoring to save positions prohibited.**
- 17.25.150 Transporting commercial fish.**
- 17.25.160 Commercial fish quality control requirements.**
- 17.25.170 No Tribal liability.**

17.25.010 Commercial fishery.

The commercial fishery is separate from the subsistence fishery and the Tribal Guide Fishery. The commercial fishery includes Requa Sales, Find Own Market, and Value Added Fisheries. The commercial fishery authorizes Yurok Tribal members to use fish harvested from the Tribal allocation for a commercial use, including sales to non-Tribal members. [Ord. 44 § 1401, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.020 Commercial fishing prohibited except as authorized.

Commercial fishing is prohibited, except as provided in this title or an adjustment. [Ord. 44 § 1402, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.030 Commercial fishing by management area.

(a) *Estuary.* Commercial fishing below the downstream boundary is prohibited. Commercial fishing in the estuary is prohibited, except as specifically allowed for fall Chinook salmon for the Requa Sales, FOM and Value Added Fisheries.

(b) *Middle Klamath.* Commercial fishing is prohibited, except commercial fishing for the smoked salmon Value Added Fishery.

(c) *Upper Klamath.* Commercial fishing is prohibited, except commercial fishing for the smoked salmon Value Added Fishery. [Ord. 44 § 1403, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.040 Commercial fisheries.

Three separate commercial fisheries for fall Chinook salmon exist, subject to adjustment:

- (a) *Sale to Requa Buyers.* Buyers may be contracted to purchase fish at the Requa Buying Station.
- (b) *Find Own Market (FOM) Fishery.* The FOM fishery allows Tribal members who have acquired a permit from the Tribe to sell fresh fish from the estuary to markets they find themselves. If the harvest monitors have time, they can inspect the fish and issue the fisher a receipt stating how many fish are eligible for sale, which the fisher can take to the checkpoint to get a permit instead of taking the actual fish to the checkpoint.
- (c) *Value Added Fishery.* The Value Added Fishery allows eligible fishers to add value to the fish, such as by smoking or freezing for later sale. Fish not harvested as specified for fresh fish must have the dorsal fin clipped. Fish to be smoked may be harvested in the estuary or the Middle and Upper Klamath management areas. Fish to be frozen may be harvested only in the estuary. [Ord. 44 § 1404, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.050 Species eligible for sale – Authorized sales.

Only Chinook salmon may be sold during the commercial fishery. Sale of any other fish species is prohibited. Fresh fish may not be sold after the close of the commercial season, except fresh fish with a Find Own Market permit may be sold up to five days after the close of the commercial season. Frozen and smoked fish with a value added permit may be sold at any time. [Ord. 44 § 1405, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.060 Commercial fish.

Fish for commercial use or sale are commercial fish. Commercial fish should not be clipped, except any salmon taken in the Middle and Upper Klamath for the smoked salmon Value Added Fishery must be clipped. The use or sale of commercial fish is limited to Chinook salmon harvested during the commercial season and used pursuant to the Requa Sales, Find Own Market, or Value Added Fishery, except as authorized by an adjustment. [Ord. 44 § 1406, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.070 Commercial season and closures.

- (a) The commercial season is closed, except as specified in an adjustment.
- (b) A person commits a level three offense if the person commercially fishes during a closure. [Ord. 44 § 1407, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.080 Commercial certification required.

(a) No person may participate in the commercial fishery or sell any fish from the Tribal allocation without a current commercial certification. A current commercial certification shall only be issued to Yurok Tribal members who meet the following requirements:

- (1) *Eligible Fisher.* The person must meet the definition of an eligible fisher.
- (2) *Signed Contract.* The person must have signed a contract for the current commercial season agreeing to use any required handling procedures and to abide by this title and any current adjustment.
- (3) *Fishing Rights Not Suspended.* The person's subsistence or commercial fishing rights have not been suspended.
- (4) *Over 12 Years Old.* The person must be over 12 years old, except a person under 12 years old may participate in the commercial fishery under the supervision of another commercial fisher.
- (5) *Current Familiarity with the Fishery.* The person must be knowledgeable about current fishing regulations and is responsible for adherence to all current fishing regulations in this title and any adjustment.

(b) A person commits a level three offense if the person participates in the commercial fishery without a current commercial certification, or allows another person without current commercial certification to participate in the commercial fishery. [Ord. 44 § 1408, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.090 Commercial fishing with suspended rights prohibited.

(a) No person may participate in the commercial fishery while that person's subsistence or commercial fishing rights are suspended. The commercial license of any person whose subsistence or commercial fishing rights are suspended shall be invalid for a period of time corresponding to the suspension.

(b) A person commits a level three offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1409, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.100 Commercial buoy required.

(a) Persons fishing commercially must identify their nets with a commercial fishing buoy that is attached to the net. Fish caught in a net without a commercial buoy are for subsistence purposes only and must have the dorsal fin clipped.

- (1) *Buoy Type.* Commercial fishing buoys must be bright yellow.
- (2) *Marked Buoy.* Each commercial fisher shall indelibly and conspicuously mark the commercial fishing buoy with his or her Tribal identification number and commercial license number. The numbers shall be marked on

the buoy in such a way that they are obvious without removing the gear from the water and can be read from a distance of at least 10 feet.

(b) A person commits a level three offense if the person violates this section. A violation of each provision shall constitute a separate offense. [Ord. 44 § 1410, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.110 Use of another's commercial buoy prohibited.

(a) Fishers may only use their own commercial buoy.

(b) A person commits a level three offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1411, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.120 Use of commercial license numbers on nets.

(a) *Use of License Number by Another Prohibited.* No commercial fisher shall authorize the use of his or her commercial license number on a net fished by another person. This responsibility shall not act to relieve another person of liability for any conduct charged.

(b) *Fishing with Identification Number of Another Prohibited.* No fisher may attend or fish a net that is not marked with his or her own commercial license number.

(c) A person commits a level three offense if the person violates this section. A violation of each subsection shall constitute a separate offense. [Ord. 44 § 1412, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.130 Unoccupied boats – Buoys.

(a) During the commercial season, no buoy or unoccupied boat may be left in the estuary during a closure of the commercial fishery, except:

(1) *Marked Snags.* A buoy may be left in the estuary if its primary purpose is to mark a snag or placed by the Tribe to mark boundaries.

(2) *Docked Boats.* An unoccupied boat may be left in the estuary if it is docked, including boats docked a reasonable distance offshore to allow for tidal fluctuation and not meant to save a fishing spot.

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1413, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.140 Anchoring to save positions prohibited.

- (a) No person, more than one-half hour prior to the time that commercial fishing is allowed, may anchor a boat or buoy or use other methods to attempt to save a spot for commercial fishing.
- (b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1414, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.150 Transporting commercial fish.

- (a) No commercial fish shall be transported outside the commercial zone without a Find Own Market or value added permit, except by an authorized Requa buyer in accordance with its agreement with the Tribe. Any fish located outside of the commercial zone without a permit is considered a subsistence fish and must have the dorsal fin clipped. Fish can be cleaned within 25 horizontal feet of the wetted area of the Klamath River shoreline, but must be presented by boat at the boat dock at Requa. Fish cannot be moved more than 25 horizontal feet from the wetted area of the Klamath shoreline without a commercial permit.
- (b) A person commits a level four offense if the person transports an unclipped fish outside of the commercial zone without a commercial use permit in violation of this section. [Ord. 44 § 1415, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.160 Commercial fish quality control requirements.

- (a) Commercial fishers must meet the following commercial fish quality control requirements:
- (1) *Icing for Fish.* At the time they begin fishing, commercial fishers must have with them adequate ice to chill and pack all fish to be harvested.
 - (2) *Containers.* Fishers must have adequate containers (e.g., ice chests or totes) in which to pack fish. Containers must be of a material that can be readily cleaned/sterilized and must be maintained in a sanitized condition.
 - (3) *Handling Fish.* Fish are never to be placed on the ground. Fish must be handled gently, held by the head. Never handle fish by the tail.
 - (4) *Bleeding Fish.* Harvested fish are to be immediately bled (for example, by pulling a gill).
 - (5) *Packing Fish.* All fish must be iced immediately. Ice must surround and cover the fish and is also to be placed in the belly, or the fish must be packed in slush.
 - (6) *Cleaning Fish.* Fish must be gutted immediately no later than 10 minutes after removal from the water.
 - (A) If fish cannot be immediately gutted, fish must be placed within 10 minutes in a slush tank or ice to chill them while waiting.
 - (B) No fish should be held more than one hour before gutting.

- (C) Do not cut into the belly wall when gutting the fish. Remove the kidney (backbone blood) using a spoon, with special care for the pockets near the head and tail. If visible blood remains in the veins of the belly, press it out by stroking toward the backbone.
- (D) Fish that are removed from the water dead are subsistence fish and must have the dorsal fin clipped.
- (7) *Keeping Up with Harvest.* Fish must be alive when removed from a net. Fish must be removed promptly from a net and cleaned and iced immediately. If the fisher and crew cannot meet this standard, then part of the net is to be tied up so that it is not fishing and they have time to properly care for the fish.
- (8) Any additional requirement specified by an adjustment.
- (b) Any fish not handled in this manner must be clipped, cannot be used for commercial use, and shall be considered a subsistence fish.
- (c) A person commits the level two offense if the person possesses an unclipped salmon or steelhead and does not meet commercial fish quality control requirements. [Ord. 44 § 1416, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.25.170 No Tribal liability.

All liability and expenses incurred by fishers by participating in the commercial fishery shall be the responsibility of the fisher. The Yurok Tribe, including its officers, staff, and agents, shall not be liable for any liability or expense incurred by any person participating in the commercial fishery. [Ord. 44 § 1417, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

Chapter 17.30 COMMERCIAL FISHERY SALES AND PERMITTING

Sections:

- 17.30.010 Commercial sales prohibited except as authorized.**
- 17.30.020 Commercial fish sales to Tribal members.**
- 17.30.030 Sales of commercial fish to Tribal member commercial buyers.**
- 17.30.040 Commercial use permit.**
- 17.30.050 Use fee.**
- 17.30.060 Requa Sales Fishery.**
- 17.30.070 Find Own Market (FOM) Fishery.**
- 17.30.080 FOM permits.**
- 17.30.090 Value Added Fishery.**

17.30.010 Commercial sales prohibited except as authorized.

- (a) Commercial sales and commercial use of a Tribal fishery resource are prohibited, except in accordance with this title or an adjustment.
- (b) A person commits a level three offense if the person possesses an unclipped salmon or steelhead, or a commercial fish, on land without a valid commercial use permit. A person commits a level four offense if the person sells or trades, or attempts to sell or trade, a fish to a non-Tribal buyer without fully complying with the requirements of the Elders', Requa Sales, Find Own Market, or Value Added Fishery.
- (c) Each fish used in violation of the Elders', Requa Sales, Find Own Market, or Value Added Fishery shall constitute a separate offense. [Ord. 44 § 1501, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.30.020 Commercial fish sales to Tribal members.

Commercial sale of fish by a fisher to Tribal members is prohibited, except if the seller is an eligible fisher with a commercial license and either of the following exceptions applies:

- (a) The Tribal member purchaser is an eligible fisher with a commercial license; or
- (b) The Tribal member purchaser uses the fish only for subsistence use. [Ord. 44 § 1502, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.30.030 Sales of commercial fish to Tribal member commercial buyers.

An eligible fisher with a commercial license may, without a commercial use permit, purchase commercial fish from another eligible fisher with a commercial license. In order to resell the fish to a non-Tribal member buyer, the Tribal-member purchaser must:

- (a) Keep a current log of the original purchase, including when the fish was purchased and whom the fish was purchased from;
- (b) Allow inspection of the log by the Tribe;
- (c) Turn in the log at the time the person receives a commercial use permit;
- (d) Meet the commercial use and permit requirements in this title and any adjustment for any subsequent resale. [Ord. 44 § 1503, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.30.040 Commercial use permit.

A commercial use permit is required to accompany all unclipped salmon and commercial fish once the fish has been transported off the river. The Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program is authorized to issue commercial use permits,

including FOM and value added permits, to facilitate and manage sales of commercial fish to non-Tribal members. A commercial use permit shall contain the following information:

- (a) Type of permit;
- (b) Name of permittee;
- (c) Tribal identification number of permittee;
- (d) Commercial license number of permittee;
- (e) Number of fish to be sold; and
- (f) Location of harvest by management area. [Ord. 44 § 1504, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.30.050 Use fee.

The Council shall require a use fee for each fish that is sold from the Tribal commercial fishery to a non-Tribal member. The use fee amount may be specified in an adjustment. [Ord. 44 § 1505, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.30.060 Requa Sales Fishery.

Fresh Chinook salmon may be sold only to Tribally authorized buyers at Requa. The buyers will issue receipts for fish purchased and will pay the use fee to the Tribe. Receipts from an authorized buyer do not need to be returned to fisheries by the seller. Fish may be sold at Requa in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a) *Tribally Authorized Buyers.* A fisher may only sell to a Tribally designated buyer for the Requa Sales Fishery. The Tribe will post notice of all current Tribally authorized buyers. Such buyers must have a current agreement with the Tribe for the purchase of commercial fish, which helps to ensure payment to Tribal members for commercial fish purchased pursuant to that agreement, and obligates the buyer to issue fish receipts and to pay the Tribe a use fee for each fish purchased.
- (b) *Use Fee.* A use fee may be charged for each fish sold to an authorized buyer as specified by an adjustment.
- (c) *Transport of Fish.* Any commercially certified fisher is eligible to sell to the Requa buyers by presenting their fish by boat at the Requa Buying Station loading dock. The boat may not be pulled out of the water before presenting fish.
- (d) *Commercial Use Permit Not Required.* A commercial use permit is not required for sales to Tribally authorized buyers.
- (e) Any additional requirement established by an adjustment. [Ord. 44 § 1506, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.30.070 Find Own Market (FOM) Fishery.

(a) Fresh fish harvested in the estuary commercial zone may be sold in any market, on or off the Reservation, including to non-Tribal buyers, as a part of the Find Own Market (FOM) fishery. The seller is responsible for finding his or her own market and for all expenses related to the marketing of the fish. FOM sellers must have a commercial permit issued by the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Department. Fresh fish sales of fish harvested above the commercial zone are not permitted.

(b) Fish can be cleaned within 25 horizontal feet of the wetted area of the Klamath River shoreline, but must be presented while still in the boat at the boat dock at Requa. Fish cannot be moved more than 25 horizontal feet from the wetted area of the Klamath shoreline without an FOM permit. [Ord. 44 § 1507, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.30.080 FOM permits.

(a) An FOM permit will authorize the selling of fresh fish to non-Tribal members. Tribal fishers may always sell fish to Yurok Tribal members unless prohibited by an adjustment.

(b) A Tribal member is not required to harvest fish to be eligible to obtain an FOM permit; however, the Tribal member must have taken the commercial fisher training. These permits may be obtained at the Yurok Tribal Commercial Fishing Checkpoint ("Checkpoint"), which will be located at Requa, hours to be posted in an adjustment.

(c) Fresh Chinook salmon may be sold to a non-Tribal member buyer, within or outside of the Reservation, with an FOM permit in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) *Only Estuary Fish May Be Sold.* The sale of fresh fish harvested above the commercial zone is not permitted. Separate permits for sales of smoked fish or holding frozen fish for later sale are available as described for the Value Added Fishery.

(2) *FOM Permit.* A fisher with a commercial license must obtain an FOM permit authorizing the sale of commercial fish to non-Tribal members. The FOM permit is valid for the sale of fresh fish only. In order to receive an FOM permit, the following requirements must be met:

(A) Only fresh commercial Chinook salmon are eligible for sale.

(B) An FOM permit may only be issued to an eligible fisher with a commercial license.

(C) The fisher seeking the FOM permit must transport the commercial fish by boat to designated Yurok Tribal staff for inspection.

(D) Any fish that Yurok Tribal inspection staff determines does not meet quality control requirements or other commercial use requirements shall be clipped immediately by the fisher and shall not be eligible for an FOM permit. Failure to immediately clip a fish as directed by the Yurok Tribal inspection staff shall constitute a level two offense.

- (E) Information to be contained on the FOM permit includes the following:
- (i) Expiration date;
 - (ii) Number of fish to be sold;
 - (iii) Location of harvest;
 - (iv) Tribal identification number of the permit holder; and
 - (v) Permit holder's name.
- (3) *Use Fee.* A use fee may be charged at the time the FOM permit is issued as specified by an adjustment.
- (4) *Expiration of FOM Permit.* An FOM permit shall expire five calendar days from the date of issuance, unless an earlier date is specified on the permit. No Find Own Market fish may be sold after that date.
- (5) *Fish Sales Receipts.* A fish sales ticket in triplicate shall be issued with the FOM permit in the number requested by the commercial fisher, but no more than one ticket per fish.
- (6) *Return of Sales Tickets.* All FOM fish sales must be tracked. Whenever an FOM transaction is made, the fisher must fill out the ticket and retain one copy, provide a copy to the buyer, and deliver or mail a copy to the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Department within three days of the expiration of the FOM permit. The following conditions shall apply to the return of sales tickets:
- (A) A copy of all used sales tickets must be returned no later than three days after expiration of the FOM permit.
 - (B) A copy of all used sales tickets must be returned to the checkpoint where they were obtained, or by mailing to the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program, Attn: Commercial Fishery, P.O. Box 1027, Klamath, California 95548.
 - (C) The Tribe may refuse to issue an FOM permit to any person who failed to return all prior fish sales tickets within three days of fish sale or permit expiration date.
 - (D) Any unused ticket must be returned in the original triplicate.
 - (E) Failure to return any used or unused ticket shall result in a \$15.00 fine per ticket for the first offense, \$50.00 per ticket for the second offense, and on the third offense the offender shall become ineligible for an FOM permit for one year.
- (7) *Returned Sales Ticket Information.* Returned fish sales tickets shall contain the following information:
- (A) Number of fish sold;
 - (B) Date fish were sold;
 - (C) Price per pound or price per fish sold;

- (D) Name of seller;
 - (E) Tribal identification number of seller; and
 - (F) Commercial license number of seller.
- (8) Any additional requirement established by an adjustment. [Ord. 44 § 1508, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.30.090 Value Added Fishery.

Fall Chinook salmon that have been hard frozen and vacuum-sealed or glazed, or that have been smoked, processed, and packaged, may be sold pursuant to this section to a non-Tribal buyer, within or outside the Reservation, in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a) *Value Added Permit.* A fisher with a commercial license may obtain a value added permit authorizing the holding and later sale of commercial fish to non-Tribal members. In order to receive a value added permit, the following requirements must be met:
- (1) A value added permit may only be issued to an eligible fisher with a commercial license.
 - (2) The fisher seeking the value added permit for fish from the estuary must transport the commercial fish by boat to Requa and present the fish to Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program staff for inspection at a checkpoint established for such purposes. The fisher seeking the value added permit for fish from the Upper or Middle Klamath for smoking must clip the fish and may then transport the fish by land to the appropriate checkpoint for inspection.
 - (3) Any fish that Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program staff determines does not meet Value Added Fishery requirements shall be clipped immediately and shall not be eligible for a value added permit.
- (b) *Use Fee.* A use fee may be charged at the time the FOM permit is issued as specified by an adjustment. The amount of the total use fee shall be noted on the value added permit. A receipt will be issued for the use fee.
- (c) *Expiration of Value Added Permit.* A value added permit shall expire October 1st of the following year unless an earlier day is specified.
- (d) *Smoked Fish.* Value added smoked fish must be smoked, processed, and vacuumsealed by April 15th following the date of issuance. Smoked fish may be caught in the estuary, Middle, or Upper Klamath management areas pursuant to YTC [17.25.040](#).
- (e) *Frozen Fish.* Value added frozen fish must be hard frozen and vacuum-sealed or glazed by April 15th following the date of issuance. Fish to be frozen pursuant to this subsection must be caught in the estuary pursuant to YTC [17.25.040](#). Frozen fish must be kept hard frozen until sold. [Ord. 44 § 1509, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

Chapter 17.35

TRIBAL GUIDE FISHERY

Sections:

- 17.35.010 Tribal Guide Fishery.**
- 17.35.020 Authorized Tribal Guide Fishery products and services.**
- 17.35.030 Tribal Guide Fishery regulations.**
- 17.35.040 Tribal fishery harvest prohibited except as permitted.**
- 17.35.050 Guide certification required.**
- 17.35.060 Catch and release prohibited.**
- 17.35.070 Non-Tribal member fishing license requirements.**
- 17.35.080 Harvest of fall Chinook salmon only.**
- 17.35.090 Duration of guiding season.**
- 17.35.100 Location of Tribal Guide Fishery.**
- 17.35.110 Fish harvest tickets.**
- 17.35.120 Fish harvest records.**
- 17.35.130 No Tribal liability.**

17.35.010 Tribal Guide Fishery.

The Tribal Guide Fishery is separate from the subsistence fishery and the commercial fishery. The Tribal Guide Fishery authorizes certified Tribal members to guide non-Tribal members in the harvest of Chinook salmon by angling from the Tribal allocation within the Yurok Reservation or harvesting from the non-Tribal fishery for all fish species. [Ord. 44 § 1601, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.35.020 Authorized Tribal Guide Fishery products and services.

The product and services authorized for sale under the Tribal Guide Fishery is the opportunity to fish with an authorized Tribal Guide Fishery guide and to harvest of fall Chinook salmon from the Tribal allocation. [Ord. 44 § 1602, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.35.030 Tribal Guide Fishery regulations.

The Yurok Tribal Council by regular action may establish and amend Tribal Guide Fishery regulations governing the certification of guides, permitting of non-Tribal members, permit fees, and harvest management of the Tribal Guide Fishery for resource conservation and harvest management purposes.

(a) *Effective Date of Regulations.* Tribal Guide Fishery regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall be effective upon adoption by the Council and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Yurok Tribal Council, or until the regulations expire by their own terms. Penalties for violations of Tribal Guide Fishery regulations are set by the Yurok Tribal Council.

(b) *Notice.* Notice of Tribal Guide Fishery regulations shall be posted at the Klamath and Weitchpec Tribal administrative offices, the Requa boat ramp, and other places as determined by the Tribal Council. [Ord. 44 § 1603, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.35.040 Tribal fishery harvest prohibited except as permitted.

No non-Tribal member may harvest fish from the Tribal fishery within the Yurok Reservation except as permitted by the Tribe. The Tribe will issue, by way of a Tribal guide, a Yurok fishing license authorizing non-Tribal members to harvest Chinook salmon by angling from the Yurok Tribal allocation in accordance with YTC [17.35.070](#). [Ord. 44 § 1604, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.35.050 Guide certification required.

In order to be a Tribal guide, a person must obtain certification by meeting the following minimum requirements:

- (a) Yurok Tribal member;
- (b) Payment of a \$100.00 certification fee, or such other amount as specified by an adjustment;
- (c) Fishing rights not currently suspended;
- (d) Knowledge of basic rescue operations;
- (e) Knowledge of basic first aid;
- (f) U.S. Coast Guard license for six or more clients;
- (g) Boat safety inspection certificate from Yurok Public Safety for operating with fewer than six clients, U.S. Coast Guard boat safety inspection certificate for six or more clients; and
- (h) Listing of other experience that qualifies the applicant for guiding. [Ord. 44 § 1605, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.35.060 Catch and release prohibited.

(a) Catch and release of adult Chinook salmon is prohibited for the Tribal Guide Fishery. All adult Chinook salmon that are caught must be kept. The individual daily bag limit for each licensed angler and Tribal member with a Tribal guide shall be set by adjustment. The daily boat limit shall be the daily bag limit for each angler multiplied by the number of Tribally licensed anglers in the boat plus the guide. It is possible for one angler in a Tribal guide

boat to catch more than the number of adult Chinook salmon specified in an adjustment, as long as the daily boat limit is not exceeded. Each angler may keep only the individual daily bag limit from the Tribal allocation per day. The catch of Chinook salmon jacks shall be regulated by an adjustment.

(b) A person commits a level two offense if the person violates this section. [Ord. 44 § 1606, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.35.070 Non-Tribal member fishing license requirements.

In order to fish from the Tribal fishery allocation, a person must obtain a Yurok fishing license. This license is valid only while fishing with a certified Tribal guide. Chinook salmon harvested under this license comes from the Tribal Guide Fishery allocation. A person agrees to the following conditions, at a minimum, in order to obtain a Yurok fishing license:

- (a) *License Fee.* The non-Tribal member shall pay a license fee set by an adjustment for each adult fish. The license shall be valid for one day. The license may be obtained from the guide.
- (b) *Bag Limit for License.* The bag limit shall be set by an adjustment. No fish harvested under the Tribal Guide Fishery allocation may be sold.
- (c) *No Past Violations of This Title.* A non-Tribal member found guilty of violating this title within the previous three years shall be ineligible to harvest fish from the Tribal fishery within the Yurok Reservation.
- (d) *Tribal Guide Fishery Regulations Compliance.* The non-Tribal member shall comply with this title and any applicable HMP or adjustment.
- (e) *State Fish and Game Regulations Compliance.* The non-Tribal member shall comply with all California Fish and Game regulations regarding gear type and, for fish from the California allocation, daily bag limits and possession limits.
- (f) *Harvest State Allocation Chinook First.* If the non-Tribal member has a California fishing license for the harvest of Chinook salmon, those Chinook must be harvested before any Chinook salmon is harvested from the Tribal allocation.
- (g) *Submission to Tribal Court Jurisdiction.* The non-Tribal member shall consent to Tribal Court jurisdiction for any violation of this title, applicable HMP or adjustment, or any other dispute arising under the Yurok fishing license. [Ord. 44 § 1607, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.35.080 Harvest of fall Chinook salmon only.

(a) A non-Tribal member with a Yurok fishing permit may harvest only fall Chinook salmon from the Tribal allocation as specified by adjustment. No other fish, including coho salmon, spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, or eel, may be harvested by a non-Tribal member from the Tribal Guide Fishery.

(b) A person commits a level three offense if the person harvests more than the number and type of fish permitted by this title or Tribal Guide Fishery regulations, or if the person is a Tribal Guide Fishery guide and allows such harvest. [Ord. 44 § 1608, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.35.090 Duration of guiding season.

Tribal Guide Fishery guides may operate throughout the year, but harvest of Chinook salmon from the Tribal allocation shall only be permitted during the fall season. The fall season shall open the first Sunday after the last Saturday in July and close on November 30th, unless otherwise specified by an adjustment. [Ord. 44 § 1609, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.35.100 Location of Tribal Guide Fishery.

The Tribal Guide Fishery is generally permitted throughout the Reservation except as otherwise provided by an adjustment. [Ord. 44 § 1610, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.35.110 Fish harvest tickets.

All fish harvested from the Tribal Guide Fishery must be tracked. Whenever a fish is harvested by a non-Tribal member pursuant to a Yurok fishing permit, the Tribal guide must immediately fill out a fish harvest ticket, retain one copy, and provide a copy to the licensee. The Tribal guide must hand deliver or mail a copy to the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program within three days of the harvest. A copy of all unused tickets must be delivered or mailed to the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program no later November 30th of the year the tickets were issued.

(a) *Fish Harvest Ticket Information.* Fish harvest tickets shall contain the following information:

- (1) Number and type of fish harvested;
- (2) Date fish were harvested;
- (3) Name of permittee;
- (4) Name of Tribal guide; and
- (5) Tribal identification number of Tribal guide.

(b) *Return of Tickets.* Fish harvest tickets may be returned to the office where they were obtained, or by mailing to the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program, Attn: Tribal Guide Fishery, 15900 Highway 101 North, Klamath, California 95548.

(c) *Failure to Return Tickets.* The Tribe may fine or refuse to certify as a guide any person who failed to return all prior used fish harvest tickets within three days of fish harvest, or failed to return unused fish tickets by November 30th. Failure to return any used or unused ticket shall result in a \$15.00 fine per ticket for the first offense, \$50.00

per ticket for the second offense, and on the third offense the guide shall become ineligible for guide certification for one year. [Ord. 44 § 1611, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.35.120 Fish harvest records.

Guides may be required to maintain records of harvest in addition to complying with fish harvest ticket requirements. [Ord. 44 § 1612, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.35.130 No Tribal liability.

All liability and expenses incurred by Tribal guides shall be the responsibility of the guide. The Yurok Tribe, including its officers, staff, and agents, shall not be liable for any liability or expense incurred by any person participating in the Tribal Guide Fishery. [Ord. 44 § 1613, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

Chapter 17.40 HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Sections:

- 17.40.010 Harvest management plan – Adjustments.**
- 17.40.020 Violation of adjustment.**
- 17.40.030 Consultation with Tribal members.**
- 17.40.040 Coordination with state and federal governments.**
- 17.40.050 Emergency regulations.**
- 17.40.060 Cooperation in harvest monitoring.**

17.40.010 Harvest management plan – Adjustments.

The Yurok Tribal Council by regular action may establish a harvest management plan (HMP) or adopt pre-season and in-season adjustments to harvest management for Tribal fishery resource conservation and harvest management purposes.

(a) *Effective Date of Adjustments.* Harvest management plans and adjustments adopted pursuant to this section shall be effective 24 hours after notice is posted, unless an earlier time is specified in an adjustment, and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded by the Yurok Tribal Council, or until the adjustments expire by their own terms. Penalties for violations of an adjustment may be specified by Tribal Council.

(b) *Notice.* Notice of an adjustment shall be posted at the Klamath and Weitchpec Tribal administrative offices, the Requa boat ramp, and other locations as determined by the Tribal Council. The Tribe shall post such notices

within 24 hours of adoption and it shall be presumed that this requirement was met unless evidence is presented indicating that notice was not posted. [Ord. 44 § 1701, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.40.020 Violation of adjustment.

Violation of an approved adjustment is prohibited. The Tribal Council may specify a fine or penalty for violation of an adjustment at the time the adjustment is adopted. [Ord. 44 § 1702, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.40.030 Consultation with Tribal members.

The Yurok Tribal Council or its designee shall hold meetings to consult with Yurok Tribal members about the status of the resources and fisheries, to discuss pre-season and in-season adjustments to harvest management, and to discuss other relevant matters. At the appropriate times during these presentations, comments will be received from those in attendance. As appropriate, notes or tape recordings of these proceedings will be made. [Ord. 44 § 1703, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.40.040 Coordination with state and federal governments.

The Tribe maintains authority to enter into co-management, cooperative, and other types of agreements with the United States, the state of California, and other states as may be necessary to further the Tribe's fishery interests. [Ord. 44 § 1704, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.40.050 Emergency regulations.

The Tribal Chairperson is authorized to enact an emergency closure of all or any part of the Tribal fishery, including if there is an immediate threat to, or conservation need for, the Tribal fishery resource. The emergency closure shall remain in place for the time specified by the Chairperson when such action is taken, or until dissolved by Council. [Ord. 44 § 1705, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.40.060 Cooperation in harvest monitoring.

Each fisher shall display all fish he or she has caught upon the request of an authorized law enforcement official or authorized Tribal personnel for the purpose of monitoring the harvest or assuring compliance with the provisions of this title. The snouts of Chinook with an adipose fin clip must be given to Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program staff upon request pursuant to YTC [17.15.220\(d\)](#). The information obtained from the coded wire tags recovered from such fish is critical to the successful management of Klamath River Fall Chinook. [Ord. 44 § 1706, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

Chapter 17.45

ENFORCEMENT AND SANCTIONS

Sections:

- 17.45.010** Cooperation with law enforcement.
- 17.45.020** Prosecution.
- 17.45.030** Citations.
- 17.45.040** Search of personal property.
- 17.45.050** Search of real property.
- 17.45.060** Search of vehicles.
- 17.45.070** Seizure and forfeiture of fish and gear.
- 17.45.080** Forfeiture proceedings.
- 17.45.090** Use of seized fish.
- 17.45.100** Complaint procedures.
- 17.45.110** Sanctions.
- 17.45.120** Monetary civil fines or penalties.
- 17.45.130** Attempted violation.
- 17.45.140** Offense levels and penalties.
- 17.45.150** Suspension of commercial fishing rights.

17.45.010 Cooperation with law enforcement.

Fishers are required to cooperate with enforcement officers. A person commits the level three offense of noncooperation with law enforcement if the person fails to cooperate as requested or directed by an enforcement officer. [Ord. 44 § 1801, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.020 Prosecution.

Any person, including Tribal members and non-Tribal members, who violates this title shall be subject to prosecution in Tribal Court. [Ord. 44 § 1802, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.030 Citations.

Law enforcement officers may issue a citation to any person for an alleged violation of this title. Such citation shall state the date, time, and location of the alleged violation and the name, if known, of the person charged. [Ord. 44 § 1803, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.040 Search of personal property.

Law enforcement officers who have a reasonable belief that any personal property contains any fish taken or possessed in violation of this title, or was used to take a fish in violation of this title, or that may be hiding fish from law enforcement or fish monitors, may search the property to investigate whether a fish was taken or possessed in violation of this title. [Ord. 44 § 1804, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.050 Search of real property.

Law enforcement officers have the authority to enter real property to determine if a fish was taken or possessed in violation of this title or an adjustment, to the fullest extent allowed under the Constitution of the Yurok Tribe and the Indian Civil Rights Act which governs searches and seizures. This section includes authorization for law enforcement to enter real property without a warrant under various conditions, including but not limited to the following situations:

- (a) An officer is lawfully present where an item is in plain sight and the officer has probable cause to believe the item is contraband, stolen property, or the item is evidence of a violation of this title (plain view exception); or
- (b) The landowner does not maintain a reasonable expectation of privacy in the area, even if "No Trespassing" signs are posted. Such areas generally include pastures, open water, open fields, and woods (open fields exception); or
- (c) Exigent circumstances exist where an officer conducts a lawful search justified by the officer's need to investigate the officer's reasonable belief that a crime is being committed or that this title is being violated. [Ord. 44 § 1805, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.060 Search of vehicles.

Law enforcement officers who have probable cause to believe that any transportation vehicle, including a boat, contains fish taken illegally or possessed in violation of this title or an adjustment may search the vehicle to determine if fish was taken or possessed in violation of such authority. [Ord. 44 § 1806, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.070 Seizure and forfeiture of fish and gear.

Any net or other fishing gear, including vehicles and boats, used to violate an HMP or this title, or any fish taken or possessed in violation of an HMP or this title, may be seized by a law enforcement officer. A notice of seizure shall be left at the site where fish or gear were confiscated. Fish and gear so seized shall be held pending disposition by court order, except as specifically provided in an adjustment or YTC [17.45.080](#) and [17.45.090](#). Pursuant to Tribal Court order, any such fish or gear may be forfeited to the Tribe for a violation of an adjustment or this title. [Ord. 44 § 1807, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.080 Forfeiture proceedings.

(a) *Forfeiture – Identified Owner.* When fish or fishing gear is seized and the owner is identified, the Tribal Prosecutor shall review the case and either:

- (1) Serve notice of a complaint for forfeiture or violation of this title, in accordance with Tribal Court Rules, to every person known to have an alleged interest in the property subject to forfeiture; or
- (2) Authorize law enforcement officers to release, without a court order, any gear or fish seized when the prosecutor declines to prosecute a person for an alleged violation of this title.

(b) *Forfeiture – Unidentified Owner.* When fish or gear is seized and the owner is unknown to the enforcement officer, the enforcement officer shall post notice of the seizure in the immediate vicinity of where the fish or gear was seized. The posting of such notice shall constitute notice of forfeiture. Notice of forfeiture may also be perfected by publishing notice of the seizure in the Tribe's periodic newsletter. The Tribal Prosecutor shall review the case and file a complaint in rem for forfeiture or violation of this title. The Tribal Prosecutor may authorize law enforcement officers to release, without a court order, any gear or fish seized.

(c) *Third-Party Interests in Forfeited Property.* Any person asserting a legal interest in fish or gear that is the subject of a complaint or civil action under subsection (a) or (b) of this section may, within 30 days of the initial filing in the court action, petition the Tribal Court for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of that person's alleged interest in the property. The petitioner shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the petitioner has a legal right, title, or interest in the fish or gear seized, is a bona fide purchaser for value of the right, title, or interest in the property, and is an innocent owner. Any person determined to be the owner of such fish or gear may be held liable for the violation for which the fish or gear was seized, unless the gear was reported as stolen prior to being seized.

(d) *Clear Title after Forfeiture.* Following the Tribal Court's disposition of the underlying legal action, law enforcement shall have clear title to fish and gear that is forfeited. [Ord. 44 § 1808, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.090 Use of seized fish.

All fish seized may be utilized for subsistence or ceremonial purposes, be commercially sold, be donated to an elders' program if edible, or be destroyed if inedible by the Yurok Tribe. Proceeds from sold fish shall be held pending disposition by the Tribal Court. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent undercover law enforcement officers from selling fish as part of their duties or to make legal the purchase of fish from such officers. [Ord. 44 § 1809, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.100 Complaint procedures.

(a) Any person regulated under this title who alleges professional misconduct against a law enforcement officer may file a complaint, in writing, with the Director of the Yurok Tribe Department of Public Safety. The Director of

the Yurok Tribe Department of Public Safety shall, without unreasonable delay, cause an investigation to be conducted into any allegation of misconduct by a law enforcement officer in carrying out the duties of that office. Upon completion of the investigation, the Director shall make available to the complainant the findings of the investigation. The Director shall ensure that the appropriate actions occur pursuant to such findings.

(b) Any person who is not satisfied with the determination of the Director may appeal the determination to the Executive Director. [Ord. 44 § 1810, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.110 Sanctions.

The Tribal Court maintains discretion to impose any of the following sanctions for violation of this title, in addition to those prescribed in YTC [17.45.150](#):

- (a) Monetary civil fines or penalties as further specified in this title;
- (b) Administrative and enforcement fees and costs;
- (c) Restitution;
- (d) Civil forfeiture of fishing gear;
- (e) Suspension of Tribal privileges, including commercial and subsistence fishing rights under this title; and
- (f) Exclusion or banishment. [Ord. 44 § 1811, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.120 Monetary civil fines or penalties.

The maximum monetary civil fine or penalty that may be imposed for a violation of this title is the maximum permitted under the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968, [25 U.S.C. § 1302](#), as amended. Tribal Council by resolution and without amending this title may:

- (a) Establish a Tribal fishing rights fine and bail schedule, setting bail, fines, and administrative fees for any violation of this title; and
- (b) Adjust the minimum monetary civil fine or penalty amounts specified in this title. [Ord. 44 § 1812, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.130 Attempted violation.

Any person who intentionally engages in conduct which constitutes a substantial step toward commission of a violation of this title shall commit the offense of attempt of the underlying violation, which shall be treated as at the same offense level as the underlying violation. [Ord. 44 § 1813, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.140 Offense levels and penalties.

Offense levels and corresponding penalties are established for violations of this title as follows:

(a) *Level One.* Penalties for a level one offense are:

- (1) *First Offense.* Seized fish are forfeited to the Tribe and a fine of \$25.00 to \$100.00 imposed or an equivalent amount of community service hours.
- (2) *Second Offense.* Seized fish and gear, except a boat or vehicle, are forfeited to the Tribe and a fine of \$50.00 to \$200.00 imposed. Commercial and subsistence fishing rights may be suspended up to seven days.
- (3) *Third Offense and Subsequent Offenses.* Seized fish and gear, except a vehicle, are forfeited to the Tribe and a fine of \$100.00 to \$250.00 imposed. Commercial and subsistence fishing rights may be suspended up to 30 days.

(b) *Level Two.* Penalties for a level two offense are:

- (1) *First Offense.* Seized fish and gear, except a boat or vehicle, are forfeited to the Tribe and a fine of \$50.00 to \$200.00 imposed.
- (2) *Second Offense.* Seized fish and gear, except a vehicle, are forfeited to the Tribe and a fine of \$100.00 to \$250.00 imposed. Commercial fishing rights shall be suspended at least 14 days and may be suspended up to 60 days. Subsistence fishing rights may be suspended up to 30 days.
- (3) *Third Offense and Subsequent Offenses.* Seized fish and gear are forfeited to the Tribe and a fine of \$200.00 to \$500.00 imposed. Commercial fishing rights shall be suspended 30 days and may be suspended up to 120 days. Subsistence fishing rights may be suspended up to 90 days.

(c) *Level Three.* Penalties for a level three offense are:

- (1) *First Offense.* Seized fish and gear are forfeited to the Tribe and a fine of \$250.00 to \$1,000.00 imposed. Commercial fishing rights shall be suspended at least seven days and may be suspended up to 90 days. Subsistence fishing rights may be suspended up to 30 days.
- (2) *Second Offense.* Seized fish and gear are forfeited to the Tribe and a fine imposed of \$500.00 to \$2,000.00. Commercial fishing rights shall be suspended for 30 days and may be suspended up to one season. Subsistence fishing rights may be suspended up to 90 days.
- (3) *Third and Subsequent Offenses.* Seized fish and gear are forfeited to the Tribe and a fine imposed of \$1,000.00 to \$3,000.00. Commercial fishing rights shall be suspended for three months and may be suspended up to three seasons. Subsistence fishing rights may be suspended up to one year.

(d) *Level Four.* Penalties for a level four offense are:

- (1) *First Offense.* Fine imposed of \$250.00 to \$1,000.00. Commercial fishing rights shall be suspended for one season. Subsistence fishing rights may be suspended up to one year.

(2) *Second and Subsequent Offenses.* Fine imposed of \$500.00 to \$2,000.00. Commercial fishing rights shall be suspended for two seasons. Subsistence fishing rights may be suspended up to two years. [Ord. 44 § 1814, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.45.150 Suspension of commercial fishing rights.

(a) *Suspension Duration.*

(1) *Season.* A one-season suspension of commercial fishing rights shall conclude at the end of the season following the date the Court orders the suspension. If the Court orders the suspension during a commercial fishing season, then the suspension shall run through the end of that season.

(2) *Year.* A one-year suspension of subsistence fishing rights shall run 365 days from the date the Court orders the suspension.

(b) *Carryover of Commercial Suspension.* A suspension of commercial fishing rights shall carry over to the subsequent season if the suspension is not fully served within the season the suspension occurs. A commercial season that is less than 30 days in length shall be counted as 30 days for purposes of calculating carryover of a suspension. [Ord. 44 § 1815, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

Chapter 17.50

TRIBAL COURT REVIEW AND JURISDICTION

Sections:

- 17.50.010 Primary jurisdiction.**
- 17.50.020 Consent to Tribal Court jurisdiction.**
- 17.50.030 Traditional dispute resolution.**
- 17.50.040 Resolution of fishing hole disputes.**
- 17.50.050 Confidentiality of Tribal Court records for juveniles.**
- 17.50.060 Tribal Court discretion.**
- 17.50.070 Failure to appear - Trial in absentia.**
- 17.50.080 Failure to obey Tribal Court order.**
- 17.50.090 Tribal Council as Appellate Court for certain matters.**

17.50.010 Primary jurisdiction.

The Tribal Court is the court of primary jurisdiction for all violations occurring under this title. Violations of this title by Yurok Tribal members and non-Tribal members within the territorial jurisdiction of the Yurok Tribe are prosecutable in the Yurok Tribal Court or in other courts of competent jurisdiction. Pursuant to the Hoopa-Yurok

Settlement Act, all rights and claims by nonmember Indians to participate in the Klamath River Indian fishery within the Yurok Reservation, or to federally reserved fishing rights within the Yurok Reservation, have been extinguished. No such right or claim shall be established, recognized, or upheld by the Yurok Tribal Court or other court of competent jurisdiction or any other dispute resolution mechanism. [Ord. 44 § 1901, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.50.020 Consent to Tribal Court jurisdiction.

Fishing by a Tribal member or non-Tribal member within the Yurok Reservation pursuant to this title shall be deemed to constitute consent to Tribal Court jurisdiction for alleged violations of this title. [Ord. 44 § 1902, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.50.030 Traditional dispute resolution.

(a) Traditional dispute resolution pursuant to this title, including under YTC [17.50.040](#), shall be limited to those disputes that involve only Yurok Tribal members. Pursuant to the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act, all rights and claims by nonmember Indians to fish a fishing hole location within the Yurok Reservation as part of the Klamath River Indian fishery have been extinguished and no such right or claim shall be recognized by the Yurok Tribal Court or dispute resolution panel.

(b) Traditional Yurok fishing law as identified by the Yurok Cultural Committee in 2003 includes the following:

- (1) *Know Your Family Relations.* Know where you are related along the river. Know the river and its locations, particularly the village name your family is from.
- (2) Not every Yurok family has/had a fishing place right.
- (3) Every Yurok has a fishing place right through permission.
- (4) Permission is gained by asking and being granted the right, with terms and conditions.
- (5) Permission once given is not permission given forever.
- (6) One standard condition is to offer some fish caught at the place where permission was granted.
- (7) Some fishing places are “open” and anyone can fish there. They are open on a firstcome, first-serve basis. If someone is fishing in an open place, then the latecomer informs the first party that they want to fish. The latecomer should politely wait a day. If the first party has already caught enough fish, then they should make ready to leave. It is polite for the first party to provide some fish to those waiting.
- (8) No fighting on the river, particularly no fighting over fishing places. The river is a place to show respect.
- (9) Do not waste fish; do not take more than what is needed. It is not what the river will do for you, it is what you will do for the river. [Ord. 44 § 1903, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.50.040 Resolution of fishing hole disputes.

Disputes over set net fishing hole locations between eligible fishers are to be resolved among the parties. Fishing hole disputes that cannot be amicably resolved between the eligible fishers shall be resolved according to the procedures of this section.

(a) *Fishing Hole Guidelines.* The Cultural Committee has identified the following guidelines, which shall govern over any fishing hole dispute:

- (1) A person may get or own a fishing right in or at a particular place by inheriting, by being gifted it, or by buying it.
- (2) Not fishing in your fishing hole does not equal losing your fishing right. An individual can move away and still retain rights in his or her fishing hole when he or she returns.
- (3) Buying or selling of land that contains a fishing hole does not mean that you have also bought or sold the fishing hole. The fishing hole is separate from land ownership unless specifically included in the transaction.
- (4) There are two main rules for the proper course of action when finding someone fishing in your fishing hole. The first rule is the same as in YTC [17.50.030\(b\)\(8\)](#), no fighting. The second rule is basically the same as in YTC [17.50.030\(b\)\(7\)](#), except that the offending party should leave immediately and make payment upon leaving.

(b) *Cultural Committee Selection of Knowledgeable Representatives.* The Cultural Committee shall identify and select a group of approximately nine to 12 knowledgeable individuals to represent the fishery management areas under this title, with at least three knowledgeable individuals for each of the three management areas. A selected individual shall meet the following qualifications:

- (1) Tribal member;
- (2) Descendant of the fishing area he or she was selected to represent; and
- (3) Recognized as a knowledgeable adult of the community for the particular fishing area he or she was selected to represent;
- (4) A knowledgeable individual may, but is not required to be, a member of the Cultural Committee.

(c) *Initiation of Dispute Resolution.* A dispute may be brought to the Cultural Committee by one or more of the disputing parties, or the dispute may be referred to the Cultural Committee by the Council or Tribal Court.

(d) *Selection of Dispute Resolution Panel.* Once a dispute is brought before the Cultural Committee, the Cultural Committee shall select a three-member panel with knowledge of the particular section of the river at issue in the dispute. At least one panel member selected by the Cultural Committee must be a descendant of the specific fishing area under dispute. Each of the disputing parties may request that one individual be removed from the panel, but both parties must agree to that individual's replacement.

(e) *Hearing Procedures.* Once the panel is selected, a hearing shall be scheduled. The parties shall be given notice, including the date, time, and location of the hearing, at least 10 days prior to the hearing date, unless the parties agree to waive the notice requirements. Hearing procedures shall comply with due process, but not necessarily formal rules of evidence, and shall meet the following guidelines:

- (1) Each party shall select one person to represent the party. That person is the only person authorized to speak for the party at the hearing.
- (2) Each party is responsible for presenting its case. The parties may present evidence, including maps and pictures of the location and witness testimony. If witness testimony is provided, the other party shall have an opportunity to cross-examine each witness. The panel may ask questions of the parties and the witnesses.
- (3) Each of the disputing parties shall present their case to the panel separately in the order determined by the panel.
- (4) The panel shall, after hearing both parties, meet and go over the evidence presented.
- (5) The panel may ask either or both of the parties for clarification before making its recommendation. If the panel seeks clarification after the hearing has concluded, then it shall do so in writing, providing a copy of the request to the other party, and ensure that other party receives any response provided by the party from which the panel sought clarification.
- (6) On the basis of the evidence presented at the hearing and within one week of the conclusion of the hearing, the panel shall make a recommendation to the Council and provide an explanation as to that recommendation. If the panel is not able to reach a majority decision, it may request additional clarification or schedule a subsequent hearing that shall be conducted in accordance with the guidelines of this section.

(f) *Tribal Council Order.* The Council shall receive and review the panel's recommendation at its next regularly scheduled meeting, or at a special meeting called by the Council for such purpose. Council shall conduct its review of the panel's recommendation in open session, unless one of the parties requests the Council to conduct the review in closed session. The Council may issue an order:

- (1) Adopting the panel's recommendation;
- (2) Modifying the panel's recommendation;
- (3) Rejecting the panel's recommendation and substituting its own determination; or
- (4) Rejecting the panel's recommendation and remanding to the panel with instructions for further consideration.

(g) *Final Action.* The Council order shall be considered a final action and may not be appealed to the Tribal Court. [Ord. 44 § 1904, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.50.050 Confidentiality of Tribal Court records for juveniles.

All Yurok Tribal Court and enforcement records concerning violations or alleged violations which occurred when the violators or alleged violators were under the age of 18 shall be strictly confidential. Records for juveniles shall be sealed, except upon order of the Tribal Court upon its own motion or that of a party. Records may only be released to other agencies or persons by petition to and order of the Tribal Court. Nothing in this paragraph shall bar the use of statistical compilations of juvenile records. [Ord. 44 § 1905, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.50.060 Tribal Court discretion.

(a) *Reduced Penalties.* The Tribal Court may convert penalties to community service at its discretion for first-time offenders for offenses that do not facilitate or result in the illegal sale, trade, or barter of fish. Community service shall be ordered as an alternative to all or any part of the penalties which otherwise would be imposed.

(b) *Community Service.* Imposing community service is left to the discretion of the Tribal Court. If a person does not obey the community service penalties then community service shall be converted into the penalty specified for the original offense and any additional offense under YTC [17.50.070](#).

(c) *Prior Convictions.* Prior convictions are calculated from the conviction date of a fishing offense within the preceding three-year period. [Ord. 44 § 1906, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.50.070 Failure to appear – Trial in absentia.

Any person who fails to appear in Tribal Court for a violation of this title after being appropriately noticed may be deemed to have elected to have a trial in absentia. [Ord. 44 § 1907, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.50.080 Failure to obey Tribal Court order.

(a) Any person who fails to comply with a lawful order of the Yurok Tribal Court shall be fined not more than \$500.00 on the first offense and may suffer suspension of fishing rights for an additional period not to exceed 365 days for each offense. If the order of the Yurok Tribal Court is not satisfied within 180 days, the net and any equipment from that case may be forfeited and disposed of by the Yurok Tribe.

(b) Any eligible fisher who fails to comply with a lawful order of the Yurok Tribal Court suspending that person's fishing rights shall be guilty of a level three offense. [Ord. 44 § 1908, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

17.50.090 Tribal Council as Appellate Court for certain matters.

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Yurok Tribe Article [VII](#) and Chapter [1.10](#) YTC, Judicial Branch, the Tribal Council shall sit as Appellate Court for decisions of the Tribal Trial Court regarding all fishing disputes involving a

nonmember Indian as a party or for which a non-Tribal member claims a fishing right in the Klamath River Indian or Tribal fishery. The Tribal Trial Court order disposing of such dispute shall be considered a final action and may be appealed to the Tribal Council sitting as the Appellate Court, which shall be the highest judicial body of the Tribe for such disputes. [Ord. 44 § 1909, adopted, 7/23/2015.]

The Yurok Tribal Code is current through Ordinance CA18-346 and legislation passed through August 2018.

Disclaimer: The Office of the Tribal Attorney has the official version of the Yurok Tribal Code. Users should contact the Office of the Tribal Attorney for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited here.

[Tribe Website: yuroktribe.org](http://yuroktribe.org)

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