

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP)
for the
Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch
Lake County, California

PURPOSE AND NEED

The signatories of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recognize the value of coordinating resource management and planning activities between public agencies, tribes, private landowners, and other interest groups in order to evaluate and implement projects of mutual interest. This MOU intends to focus on the habitat and population of *Lavinia exilicauda chi* (Clear Lake hitch) and related parameters including water quality/quantity and watershed health through cooperation, information, and education.

This MOU acknowledges that the Clear Lake hitch has been classified by the California Fish & Game Commission as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act.

This MOU recognizes the need to study this unique, native fish of the Clear Lake basin. The Chi Council (CC) has formed to better understand the population fluctuation, upstream migration, and habitat in the Clear Lake basin. The project's goals will include the maintenance of a viable hitch population and properly functioning habitat.

If the group determines that changes in this document are necessary at some point in the future, changes will be made through the consensus process. Any party may withdraw their name from the list of signatories on the MOU by written request at any time.

GOALS

- Study, protect, restore, and maintain the watershed ecosystem leading to a restored population of Clear Lake hitch
- Study and recognize the "lake effect" on the hitch population by the introduction of non-native fish, the condition of shoreline habitat, the effects of pollutants in the water column, and aquatic conditions in general
- Study the fish population during migratory runs

OBJECTIVES

While more may follow, these are ongoing objectives:

- Work with all stakeholders to enhance public understanding of the impacts of threatened species listing for the hitch
- Coordinate volunteers and train monitoring teams
- Obtain funding to sustain operational status
- Encourage scientific research on hitch and their habitat through colleges, universities, and other agencies

- Enhance public awareness and understanding of hitch, their habitat, and cultural significance through a website, publications, educational programs for youth, and other means
- Gather and preserve oral histories of hitch and their use by native peoples of the Clear Lake basin
- Sponsor habitat restoration projects

PLANNING GUIDELINES

The planning of the CC will be a consensus driven process concentrating on specific priorities as funding allows.

The stakeholders will be cooperatively involved in the study of the natural resources of the watershed using available information and working together to develop additional information as needed.

Private landowners will take the lead role in coordinating the CC planning applicable to private lands. Public land managers and watershed groups will take the lead role in coordinating the CC planning applicable to public lands. All stakeholders will be involved in the final recommendations that will comprise the CC for the study as a whole.

ORGANIZATION

Any agency, locally established group, or individual having an interest in resource management can collaborate with the CC by signing the Memorandum of Understanding. This MOU in no way restricts the stakeholders from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

1. Chairperson
2. Secretary
3. Committee Heads – appointed on an as-needed basis
4. Publication/documentation

PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

The principal contacts for the Chi Council are as follows:

Name	Position	Phone Number
Peter Windrem	Chairperson	(707) 279-8700
Victoria Brandon	Secretary/Webmaster	(707) 994-1931
Greg Giusti	Resource Advisor	(707) 263-6838
Tom Smythe	Water Resources Engineer	(707)263-2390

This agreement expires on August 24, 2019 at which time it will be subject to review, renewal, or termination.

We, the undersigned, concur with the CC Memorandum of Understanding and will act to implement it to the best of our ability. This MOU is hereby signed and dated effective December 3, 2014. This MOU may be signed in counterparts which together shall constitute one document.

Signature

I/My agency, tribe, organization, corporation or individual hereby agree(s) to become part of the Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch and, in my activities as a member, agree(s) to operate by the terms and conditions set forth in this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signature

Print Name

Agency/Tribe/Organization/Corporation/Individual

Name/Address/Email of Party to Receive Notices

Date