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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEMONSTRATION KICKS OFF SUCCESSFUL FISH TAGGING EVENT FOR THREATENED HITCH

Clear Lake Hitch were captured and tagged with RFID implants as part of an effort to study and preserve this culturally significant and potentially threatened species. Nearly 150 hitch were tagged on Saturday, March 28th, as part of a public demonstration of fish tagging techniques. Over twenty volunteers participated in the demonstration conducted by Tribal environmental staff from Robinson Rancheria, Big Valley Rancheria, Upper Lake Habematolel Band of Pomo Indians, Elem Indian Colony, and Scotts Valley Rancheria. McGinnis and Associates LLC of Reno, NV provided technical support.

The Clear Lake Hitch is a culturally significant native fish in Clear Lake located in Lake County, California. The hitch are a vital part of the historical diet and cultural practices of the Pomo Indians who have inhabited the Clear Lake region for over 11,000 years. In recent years, the hitch have declined in population significantly. The California Department of Fish and Game listed the Clear Lake Hitch as a Fish Species of Special Concern in California in 1995 because of its decline and loss of habitat.

The new RFID tags will provide information critical to estimating population and studying their life cycle. This project also includes water quality monitoring on many Clear Lake tributaries



and development of a multi-Tribal hatchery program to be based at the Robinson Rancheria Environmental Center. The project is funded by a grant through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tribal Wildlife Grant program.

If you would like more information on this project, contact Dr. Dietrick McGinnis at 775-853-0449 or email dmcginnis@mcginnisandassociates.com.