

CLARIFICATION OF SALMON STOCKS WITHOUT CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

At its April 2002 meeting the Council requested that Staff provide information on salmon stocks identified in the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that did not have conservation objectives. The FMP lists 45 chinook stocks, 21 coho stocks, and 2 pink stocks that are managed by the Council (Table 3-1). The FMP specifies that conservation objectives for stocks listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) may include requirements of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for jeopardy standards or recovery/rebuilding standards (consultation standards). The FMP also states that ESA listed stocks are exceptions to the application of overfishing criteria of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) since the Council believes the NMFS consultation standards meet the intent of the Magnuson-Stevens Act overfishing provisions.

Of the 68 stocks listed in Table 3-1 of the FMP, the following have no conservation objectives:

- Klamath River spring chinook
- Willapa Bay fall natural chinook
- Columbia River mid-river bright hatchery chinook
- Columbia River natural coho

Seven stocks have no conservation objectives independent of NMFS consultation standards:

- ESA-listed Sacramento River winter chinook
- ESA-listed Sacramento River spring chinook
- ESA-listed North-central California Coast (Eel, Mattole, Mad, and Smith Rivers) chinook
- ESA-listed Snake River spring/summer chinook
- ESA-listed Snake River fall chinook
- ESA-listed Northern California natural coho
- ESA-listed Central California Coast coho

Two stocks have an aggregate conservation objective:

- Southern Oregon Coast chinook
- Central/Northern Oregon chinook

In addition, management of five Canadian stocks are deferred to the Pacific Salmon Treaty: Coastal B.C. and Fraser chinook, Coastal B.C. and Fraser coho, and Fraser pink salmon. The Coastal B.C. chinook stock is exploited at less than a 5% rate in Council area fisheries and, therefore, would be an exception to the overfishing criteria in the FMP.

All other chinook, coho, and pink salmon stocks have conservation objectives defined under the salmon FMP, although conservation objectives for all ESA listed stocks defer to NMFS consultation standards.

Three natural stocks in the Salmon FMP have undefined conservation objectives: Klamath River spring chinook, Willapa Bay fall chinook, and Columbia River natural coho. Klamath River spring chinook have no conservation objectives and are subject to overfishing concerns. The Council assumes the productive potential is protected by the conservation objective for Klamath River fall chinook. Willapa Bay fall chinook are exploited at less than a 5% rate in Council area fisheries and, therefore, are exceptions to the overfishing criteria in the FMP. Lower Columbia natural coho are listed as endangered under the Oregon State Endangered Species Act. In 2002, the Council used Oregon coastal natural (OCN) coho as a surrogate, and employed a harvest rate matrix developed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as part of the state's recovery plan. The matrix was based on OCN marine exploitation rates and expected Columbia River natural freshwater exploitation rates. Overall impacts were limited to those established for OCN. NMFS is conducting a status review of the stock, and may list it under the federal ESA at which time the conservation objective would defer to NMFS consultation standards.

One hatchery stock has an undefined conservation objective, the Columbia Mid-River bright stock (Mid-Columbia Bright). Egg take for this hatchery program occurs primarily at Priest Rapids Hatchery on the upper Columbia from returning fish which are included as part of the up-river bright conservation objective.

Seven stocks have conservation objectives specified only as NMFS consultation standards: Sacramento River winter chinook, Sacramento spring chinook, North-central California coast chinook, Snake River fall chinook,

Snake River spring/summer chinook, Central California Coast natural coho and Northern California natural coho. North-central California coastal chinook had no consultation standard specified at the time Table 3-1 from the FMP was printed, but was subsequently specified in a 2000 NMFS Biological Opinion as no more than a 17% ocean harvest rate on age-4 Klamath River fall chinook (used as a surrogate stock). For 2002 the standard was changed to 16% as a result of implementing the new Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM). The Snake River spring/summer chinook stock is exploited at less than a 5% rate in Council area fisheries and, therefore, is an exception to the overfishing criteria in the FMP. Snake River fall chinook harvest is constrained to less \leq 70% of the 1988-1993 average adult equivalent age-3/age-4 exploitation rate for all ocean fisheries. Prior to listing, Snake River fall chinook were managed under the upriver bright fall chinook conservation objective. NMFS consultation standards for Sacramento River winter chinook originally included performance standards for replacement rate and specific season dates for ocean fisheries. Beginning in 2002 they involve only specific season dates. For Sacramento River spring chinook, NMFS consultation standards indicate that measures to protect Sacramento winter chinook provide adequate protection for spring chinook. For Central California coast coho and Northern California Coast coho, NMFS consultation standards are a maximum 13% marine exploitation rate on Rogue/Klamath hatchery coho (as a surrogate stock) and no retention of coho in California ocean fisheries.

Southern Oregon coast and Central/Northern Oregon chinook conservation objectives are aggregated into a single escapement goal pending development of independent objectives and approval from the Council. An FMP amendment is not necessary to incorporate the independent objectives.

Numerous stocks have conservation objectives that may warrant reevaluation or updating, and ESA listed stocks that have no independent conservation objective under the Salmon FMP should have objectives established prior to delisting. In some cases, aggregate objectives and surrogate stock impacts would, ideally, be replaced with stock-specific objectives based on stock-specific information, however in many cases, such information is lacking or agreement among responsible parties has not been reached. Other stocks will need updated objectives associated with Fishery Management and Evaluation Plans (FMEP) approved by NMFS under ESA 4(d) provisions or Pacific Salmon Treaty agreements. It is likely that the Council's Salmon FMP will be modified intermittently as priorities for specific stocks arise, such as the possibility of delisting, developments in other management arenas, or the availability of new information. Some of these modifications will be incorporated through plan amendments, others through technical review.

Salmon FMP stocks without specific numerical or harvest rate conservation objectives independent of NMFS consultation standards.

FMP Stock Designation	No FMP Objective	Objective is NMFS Consultation Standards.	Objective is Stock Aggregate	No FMP Objective; Hatchery Exception	No FMP Objective; Exploitation Exception	Objective is PST Agreement
Chinook						
Sacramento Winter		X				
Sacramento Spring		X				
California Coastal		X				
Klamath Spring	X					
Southern Oregon			X			
North/Central Oregon			X			
Snake River Fall		X	X			
Snake River Spring/Summer		X			X	
Mid-Columbia Bright	X			X		
Willapa Bay Fall	X				X	
B.C. Coastal					X	X
Fraser River						X
Coho						
Central California		X				
Northern California		X				
Columbia River Natural	X					
B.C. Coastal						X
Fraser River						X
Pink						
Fraser River					X	X
Total	4	7	3	1	2	5