

EIGHTH AMENDMENT TO THE
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SALMON
FISHERIES OFF THE COASTS OF WASHINGTON,
OREGON, AND CALIFORNIA COMMENCING IN 1978

Incorporating the Environmental Assessment
and
Requirements of Other Applicable Law

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The proposed amendment to the "Fishery Management Plan for Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries Off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California Commencing in 1978" has been prepared by the Pacific Fishery Management Council staff and the staff of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region. The issues under consideration resulted from a variety of sources including a public "scoping" session, organized user groups, agency personnel, and legislative mandate. The "Habitat Appendix" was authored by Monique Rutledge. Specific personnel involved in this effort are listed below.

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rough bar advisories, and gale warnings were posted on the
Washington coast, 1977-1981 and 1985..... 9

ACRONYM LIST

CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
Commission	Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Council	Pacific Fishery Management Council
CRS	Congressional Research Service
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DOE	U.S. Department of Ecology
EA	Environmental Assessment
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FMP	fishery management plan
FPA	Federal Power Act
FWCA	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
LCDC	Land Conservation and Development Commission
MFCMA	Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
NCFVSI	National Council of Fishing Vessel Safety and Insurance
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPPA	Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act
NPPC	Northwest Power Planning Council
NRC	Natural Resource Consultants
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
PSTA	Pacific Salmon Treaty Act
RFMC	Regional Fishery Management Council
RIR/IRFA	Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis
SPDT	Salmon Plan Development Team
WCZMP	Washington Coastal Zone Management Program
WDF	Washington Department of Fisheries

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document presents and analyzes the issues and impacts of the eighth amendment to the "EIS and FMP for Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries Off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California Commencing in 1978." It is the second amendment developed since the FMP was converted into a framework plan in 1984. The two issues presented in this amendment are (1) incorporation of habitat considerations in the FMP and (2) temporary adjustments for access to the fishery for vessels denied harvest opportunity by unsafe weather or ocean conditions. As proposed by the Council, this amendment does not require any change in federal regulations.

Issue 1 - Habitat

Development of an eighth amendment to the 1978 FMP began in 1985 with the initiation of work on a habitat section. This action responded to the habitat conservation policy implemented by NMFS in 1983 and now is responsive to the 1986 amendment to the MFCMA which strengthens the Council's role in habitat matters. Because the present FMP section dealing with habitat does not meet the requirements of the MFCMA amendment, status quo is not an option for this issue.

This issue concerns the need for information in the FMP regarding the significance of habitat and the impacts of habitat changes on the salmon resource and fishery. The proposed action incorporates a more detailed treatment of habitat concerns and objectives in the FMP, including the present Council policy and a "Habitat Appendix."

The impact of the additional information and documentation proposed in this issue should help to provide more effective and timely guidance in the protection and enhancement of salmon habitat for stocks under Council jurisdiction. It should reduce the duplication of effort and expense by developers and management agencies in assembling and disseminating habitat information and should help focus Council and agency actions with respect to habitat management activities. No federal regulatory changes are required by this amendment issue.

Issue 2 - Temporary Adjustments for Access to the Fishery for Vessels Denied Harvest Opportunity by Unsafe Weather or Ocean Conditions

A 1986 MFCMA amendment requires, among other things, that any FMP amendment occurring after January 1, 1987

consider, and may provide for, temporary adjustments, after consultation with the U.S. Coast Guard and persons utilizing the fishery, regarding access to the fishery for vessels otherwise prevented from harvesting because of weather or other ocean conditions affecting the safety of vessels" (Public Law 99-659, §303[a][6]).

This issue is being considered to conform with that MFCMA mandate.

Two options were formally considered for this issue. The Council recommends implementation of Option 1 which, without any regulatory changes, allows for

consideration of adjustments for vessel access precluded by unsafe weather or ocean conditions. This option meets the requirements of the MFCMA amendment and is the least cost alternative.

INTRODUCTION

This document presents and analyzes the issues and impacts of the eighth amendment to the "EIS and FMP for Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries Off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California Commencing in 1978." The description of issues which follows incorporates most of the necessary elements and requirements of an EA. Appendix A contains or references the information required for a structurally complete EA. Appendix B contains a review of the amendment's consistency with federal and state coastal zone management programs and Appendix C provides a review of other applicable law. As proposed by the Council, this amendment requires no federal regulatory changes and no RIR/IRFA has been prepared for it.

This is the second amendment developed since the FMP was converted into a framework plan in 1984. The two issues presented here are (1) incorporation of habitat considerations in the FMP and (2) temporary adjustments for access to the fishery for vessels denied harvest opportunity by unsafe weather or ocean conditions.