

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
AMENDMENT 16, ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) identified several issues that are important to consider within the scope of the annual catch limit (ACL) amendment process for the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

First, many concepts in the current FMP are consistent with the intent of the ACL and accountability measures (AM) requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). The current measures in the FMP have been more than adequate to manage the fishery responsibly. The amendment should clarify this, and the Council should strive to maintain the current management practices as much as possible when considering alternatives during this amendment process.

Regarding the alternatives presented in the Salmon Amendment Committee (SAC) report (Agenda Item C.1.b, SAC Report), the SAS recommends the Council adopt the proposed classification alternative and application of the international exception. This alternative is most consistent with status quo management and will allow further development of alternatives for the ACL framework.

The SAC recommends the Council consider an alternative for status determination criteria (SDC) that closely resembles status quo, with an overfished designation for stocks that fall below a minimum stock size threshold (MSST) for three consecutive years, and rebuilt status when a stock achieves maximum sustainable yield (MSY) spawning escapement in one year. The SAS also recommends the response to triggering SDC reflect the source of the stock depression. In other words, don't penalize the fishery for habitat-related issues.

The SAS recommends the SAC include sector ACLs for Council area fisheries as the ACL framework alternatives are further developed. Again, the SAS wants to ensure that AMs are directed at the responsible parties. Further, the SAS recommends that AMs should not be only punitive, but should be a "two way street," providing benefits to fisheries when management is overly conservative.

The SAS recommends that *de minimis* fishery provisions be based on stock specific characteristics if possible. Since only Sacramento River fall Chinook, and possibly southern Oregon Coast Chinook, need these provisions under the proposed classification and international exception alternatives, it makes sense to consider these stocks separately. Looking at factors like hatchery contribution and stock productivity should also be considered when developing alternatives.

PFMC
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