

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE WEST COAST REGION STRATEGIC PLAN

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) met with Ms. Jennifer Ise of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), regarding the draft West Coast Region Strategic Plan: 2015-2020 (Agenda Item C.5.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 2). The SAS provides the following comments on the draft plan:

Sustainable Fisheries Goals

- We have strong concerns about aquaculture, particularly salmon aquaculture, and we request a more explicit description of aquaculture goals and strategies.
- Regarding Social and Economic Contributions, we are strongly in support of bullet number 3, “Remove barriers to formation of community associations.
- Regarding Science and Technology, we support items 3 and 5 on connecting essential fish habitat and electronic monitoring (particularly electronic fish tickets).
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Protected Species Goals

- Regarding the Marine Mammal Conservation objectives, we have concerns about the reference to marine mammals as “sentinels of ocean health” particularly if the reference is meant to suggest populations size rather than other health metrics such as bioaccumulation. We also suggest adding a strategy on developing a better understanding of the role of marine mammals in the ecosystem, their impacts, and their natural population variability. We would also support a strategy for marine mammal removals in the context of pinniped predation of salmonids.
- Regarding Consultations and Support, we recommend that NMFS actively pursue mitigation for habitat degradation and that NMFS play a stronger role in consultation process for offshore energy projects.