

## LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER NATURAL COHO HARVEST MATRIX

Lower Columbia natural (LCN) coho stocks in the Lower Columbia River evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2005, and efforts to recover these populations often have a constraining effect on ocean and inriver salmon fisheries. Additionally, stocks on the Oregon side of the river have been listed under the Oregon ESA since 1999. Current and Federal ESA implementation has relied on a matrix approach that considers parental spawner escapement and marine survival as a harvest control rule to determine allowable fishery impacts. New information is available regarding the status of the populations since development of the current matrix control rule; thus, the Council has scheduled a review and possible revision of the matrix in current use.

At its June 2014 meeting, the Council received an update from the Lower Columbia River Natural Coho (LRC) Workgroup and was supportive of initial work products. The Council directed the LRC Workgroup to continue with development of alternative harvest matrices and analysis of their associated risks to Lower Columbia River natural coho. Additionally, the Council tasked the LRC Workgroup with drafting a purpose statement based on Council guidance including specifically the purpose of bringing forward new information on stock status into risk analyses and policy decisions.

The LRC Workgroup met at the Council office in Portland, Oregon on July 16 and August 14 to develop a range of alternative harvest matrices, and complete an analysis of risk (Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 1). The LRC Workgroup has also developed comments and recommendations including a draft purpose statement for this effort (Agenda Item D.2.b, LRC Workgroup Report). The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) will meet in a joint session with the LRC Workgroup on September 3 to review the alternatives and develop recommendations to the Council. A webinar meeting of the Salmon Technical Team and Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) will occur on September 9. LRC Workgroup Chair, Mr. Stuart Ellis, will present the reports to the Council at the September meeting.

The Council is tasked with approving a purpose statement, adopting a preliminary preferred alternative, and providing guidance on further development of alternative harvest matrices and the associated risk analysis. Final action on this matter is scheduled for the November Council meeting in Costa Mesa, California.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Review and approve a purpose statement for the proposed action.**
- 2. Consider alternatives and adopt a preliminary preferred alternative.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 1: Review of Allowable Fishery Impacts to Lower Columbia River Natural Coho.
2. Agenda Item D.2.b, LRC Workgroup Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Mike Burner
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider Alternatives for a Harvest Control Rule for Lower Columbia River Natural Coho and a Preliminary Preferred Alternative; Provide Additional Guidance as Necessary

PFMC  
08/18/14