

PACIFIC SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

AMENDMENT 18 – UPDATE OF ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 13, 2013

BOISE, ID

Background

- April 2011
 - Review of new information on salmon EFH
 - Council decision to amend salmon FMP
- March 2012
 - Preliminary scoping of potential alternatives
- September 2012
 - Council selects preliminary set of alternatives
- April 2013
 - Additional alternatives to include consideration of ESA Section 10(j) experimental populations
- September 2013
 - Draft EA/IRIR for Amendment 18
 - Revised Appendix A – Identification and description of salmon EFH

Salmon EFH Subject Areas

1. Identification of Pacific salmon EFH*
2. Chinook salmon freshwater EFH *
3. Coho salmon freshwater EFH *
4. Puget Sound pink salmon freshwater EFH
5. ESA Section 10(j) experimental population reintroduction efforts*
6. Impassable barriers *
7. Marine and estuarine EFH
8. EFH descriptions
9. HAPCs
10. Fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH
11. Non-fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH *
12. Information and research
13. Procedures for changing EFH *

* Alternatives have been modified since April 2013 Council meeting or need additional explanation.

Draft Appendix A

- Draft Appendix A (E.2.a Attachment 1) is intended to inform the Council's decision-making process and will be revised to match the Council's choice of final preferred alternatives.

1. Identification of Pacific salmon EFH

Alt 1B: Revise Identification of salmon EFH

Revised text:

- Freshwater

“The geographic extent of freshwater EFH is specifically identified as all habitats that are currently viable waters occupied by Council-managed salmon and as well as most of the habitats that were historically, accessible to but are not currently, occupied by these salmon.”

- Estuarine and Marine Waters

“In the estuarine and marine areas, salmon EFH extends from the extreme high tide line in nearshore and tidal submerged environments...north of Point Conception.”

2. Chinook salmon freshwater EFH

Alt 2B. Add four hydrologic units (HUs) as Chinook salmon EFH...and remove one HU as Chinook salmon EFH: 17100207 (Siltcoos).

New analysis indicates that 17100207 (Siltcoos) is not consistent with the Council's identification of EFH.

Alt 2C: Designate the mainstem Columbia River and side channels as EFH for Chinook salmon, in HU 17070101.

New analysis indicates that the entire HU (17070101) is consistent with the Council's identification of EFH.

3. Coho salmon freshwater EFH

Alt 3B: Add six HUs as coho salmon EFH

17070103 (Umatilla)

17060305 (South Fork Clearwater)

17060304 (Middle Fork Clearwater)

17060302 (Lower Selway)

17060301 (Upper Selway)

18060002 (Pajaro)

New analysis indicates a lack of reliable information documenting current or historical use by coho salmon for HU 18060002 (Pajaro). It is therefore not consistent with the Council's identification of EFH.

5. ESA Section 10(j) experimental population reintroduction efforts

Alt 5B: Amend Appendix A to add a statement that efforts to reintroduce Pacific salmon as an experimental population...under Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act will be considered when designating EFH.

Revised text:

“Areas above long-standing naturally impassable barriers (e.g., waterfalls) and above specific impassable dams are excluded from EFH, as are some areas that are the focus of reintroductions under Section 10(j) of the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA).”

6. Impassable barriers

Alt 6C: Revise the criteria for designating a dam ... and update the list based on the new criteria and new information.

This alternative would:

- *Add McKay Dam (McKay Creek) and Emigrant Dam (Middle Rogue).*
- *Remove Iron Gate Dam on Klamath River from the list and set the upstream extent of EFH at Keno Dam based on fish passage prescriptions and settlement agreement.*
- *Remove Shasta/Keswick dams from the list based on fish passage prescriptions.*

This alternative does not take into account reintroduction efforts under ESA Section 10(j).

6. Impassable barriers (cont'd)

Alt 6D: Includes all of Alt 6C and consideration of ESA Section 10(j) reintroduction efforts. Appendix A would read:

“In determining the upstream extent of EFH, the Council and NMFS also considered reintroduction efforts under Section 10(j) of the ESA. Consideration of new EFH designations should be aligned with reintroduction planning, to the extent feasible.”

This alternative would:

- Add McKay Dam (McKay Creek) and Emigrant Dam (Middle Rogue).*
- Remove Iron Gate Dam on Klamath River from the list and set the upstream extent of EFH at Keno Dam.*
- Identify Shasta/Keswick dams as candidates for remaining on the list because of ongoing efforts to establish Section 10(j) experimental populations.*

This alternative does take into account reintroduction efforts under ESA Section 10(j).

11. Non-fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH

Alt 11C: Add new non-fishing activities that may adversely affect EFH.

1. Activities causing high intensity acoustic or pressure waves
2. Over-water structures
3. Alternative energy development
4. Liquefied natural gas projects
5. Desalination
6. Power plant intakes
7. Pesticide use
8. Flood control maintenance
9. Culvert construction
10. Coal export terminal facilities

New analysis indicates a lack of sufficient information to describe effects and conservation recommendations for 11C10.

13. Procedures for changing EFH

Alt 13B: Develop process for future changes to EFH.

Allows the Council to modify the information in Appendix A without amending the Salmon FMP.

Examples of the type of changes without amending FMP are:

- Changes to the 4th field HUs that are designated as EFH;
- Modifications, additions, or removals HAPCs;
- Changes to the impassable dams that are the upstream extent of EFH;
- Changes to the detailed EFH descriptions;
- Changes to the descriptions of fishing and non-fishing activities;
- Changes to recommended conservation or enhancement measures;
- Changes to the research and information needs.

13. Procedures for changing EFH (cont'd)

Changes not allowed without amending the FMP:

- Changes to the overall description and identification of Pacific salmon EFH that is in the FMP;
- Implementation of management measures designed to reduce adverse impacts to salmon EFH.

13. Procedures for changing EFH (cont'd)

Process for Making Changes to EFH

1. Council advisory bodies, particularly the HC, reviews relevant new information.
2. Advisory body recommend changes to the Council.
3. The Council reviews recommendations and, if appropriate, direct staff to revise the EFH Appendix.
4. The Council adopts the revised EFH Appendix.
5. Revised EFH Appendix is posted on Council's website and supersedes the previous version.

Any changes to Appendix A would require Secretarial approval after public notice and comment.

Next Steps

- Council selects final preferred alternatives.
- EA and Appendix A revised to reflect Council action.
- EA, Appendix A, and FMP language transmitted to NMFS.
- Regulation development and deeming.

Questions?