

REVIEW OF 2014 FISHERIES AND SUMMARY OF 2015 STOCK ABUNDANCE FORECASTS

Each year, the Council reviews the Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation (SAFE) document (Review of Ocean Salmon Fisheries) and stock abundance projections (Preseason Report I). Stock status for non-Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed and non-hatchery stocks is evaluated in the SAFE document relative to status determination criteria (SDC) for overfishing, overfished, not overfished/rebuilding, and rebuilt. These stocks are evaluated relative to SDC for approaching an overfished condition in Preseason Report I.

Three stocks are required to have annual catch limits (ACLs) specified – the Sacramento River fall Chinook (indicator stock for the Central Valley fall Chinook complex), Klamath River fall Chinook (indicator stock for the Southern Oregon/Northern California Chinook complex), and, for the first time in 2015, Willapa Bay natural coho. The ACLs are equivalent to acceptable biological catch (ABC), and are specified based on formulas described in the Salmon FMP (Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 1) and the abundance forecasts in Preseason Report I.

Preseason Report I also contains an analysis of 2014 regulations on projected 2015 abundance for coho and some Chinook stocks. This analysis is intended to provide perspective for how fisheries might need to be modified in 2015 to accommodate the new abundance forecasts.

At the November 2014 meeting, the Council adopted new conservation objectives and/or SDCs for Gray Harbor fall Chinook, Southern Oregon coastal Chinook, and Willapa Bay natural coho. The Salmon Technical Team (STT) will include the new values in Preseason Report I. The Council is anticipated to review and address these new conservation objectives and SDCs under this agenda item at its March meeting.

Also during the 2014 Salmon Methodology Review, the Council approved a new method for forecasting Chinook age-2 abundance for use in the Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM). The Council did not have a comprehensive list of Chinook FRAM stocks for which this method would be applied at the time of final Council action in November 2014. Therefore, the Council sent a letter to the co-managers (Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 2) requesting that the appropriate affected Tribe(s) and State(s) consult with the appropriate co-managers and provide the Council written notification of support regarding the Chinook FRAM age-2 stock recruit scalar methods intended for use in the 2015 no later than January 31, 2015 to allow for inclusion of intended methods in the annual Preseason Report I as a key step in the development of regulations for the 2015 salmon fishery seasons. Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 3 is a compendium of responses received by the Council and reviewed by the STT in the preparation of Preseason Report I.

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) will review the results of the SAFE document for 2014 and the stock abundance projections and ACLs for 2015.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will review the forecasts and recommend approval for using them in modeling 2015 ocean salmon fisheries, specifying ABCs, and setting ACLs.

Council Action:

1. **Confirm new conservation objectives and SDCs.**
2. **Adopt 2015 stock abundance forecasts, ABCs, and ACLs.**
3. **Take action relative to stock status determinations as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. *Review of 2014 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* (Included with Briefing Book).
2. Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 1: Excerpts from Chapter 3 of the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan.
3. Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 2: December 23, 2014 letter regarding the Council's request on the use of a standardized method to calculate Chinook age-2 FRAM Stock Recruit Scalars.
4. Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 3: Compendium of responses regarding the use of a standardized method to calculate Chinook age-2 FRAM Stock Recruit Scalars.
5. *Preseason Report I: Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2015 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations* (Supplemental Briefing Material).

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Mike Burner
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Review and Discuss Relevant Fishery Information, Act on Relevant Conservation Objectives or Status Determinations, and adopt 2015 Abundance Forecasts and Annual Catch Limits as Necessary

PFMC
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