

LOWER COLUMBIA NATURAL COHO HARVEST RATE MATRIX REVIEW

Lower Columbia natural (LCN) coho stocks 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. State and Federal policies both rely on a matrix approach that considers parental spawner escapement and marine survival as a harvest control rule to determine allowable fishery impacts. However, the State and Federal policies differ in their application and thus; new information is available regarding the status of the populations since development of the current matrix control rule and the Council is interested in a review and possible revision of the matrix in current use.

The 2013 salmon methodology review included consideration of a risk analysis of LCN coho harvest policy (November 2013 Briefing Book, Agenda Item C.2.s, Attachment 2, available on the Council web site). The review of this and other topics under the 2013 salmon methodology review was complicated by a Federal government furlough in the fall of 2013. At the November 2013 Council session, the Scientific and Statistical Committee suggested improvements and found the risk analysis to be “sound” and “suitable for ranking the relative risk of various harvest scenarios.” The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) was encouraged by the work done, but recommended further process that included further technical work and additional review and deliberations with stakeholders. The Council agreed, and formed the *ad hoc* Lower Columbia Natural Coho Workgroup (LRC Workgroup) to further explore existing and alternative harvest policies, working closely with the as had been the case in developing a new control rule for the lower Columbia River natural tule Chinook stock.

At its March 2014 meeting, the Council appointed LRC Workgroup members representing primarily technical and policy staff from State, Federal, and Tribal agencies. The Council also reviewed a draft process and schedule for the review (Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 1). The first meeting of the LRC Workgroup is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 4, 2014 in conjunction with the April Council meeting in Vancouver, Washington. The LRC Workgroup is anticipated to work with the SAS in reviewing the status of work done towards a different control rule matrix in 2013, review the proposed process and schedule, and outline objectives and analyses for future work.

The review of LCN coho harvest policy may result in recommended topics for the 2014 salmon methodology. In a closely related matter, the Council is also scheduled to identify preliminary topics for the 2014 methodology review at this meeting under Agenda Item F.3.

Council Task:

- 1. Provide guidance on the development of alternative harvest control rules.**
- 2. Provide guidance on the process and schedule, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.4.a, Attachment 1: Process for Pacific Council Review of Allowable Fishery Impacts to Lower Columbia Natural Coho.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Mike Burner
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Guidance for Development of Alternative Harvest Control Rules

PFMC
03/21/14