

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON SACRAMENTO RIVER WINTER  
CHINOOK HARVEST CONTROL RULE

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) has reviewed the Federal Register notice and received the benefit of a presentation from Dr. Michael O'Farrell about the history of the current Sacramento River winter Chinook control rule and the relative protections and fishing opportunities provided under the alternative control rules that have been proposed. The SAS notes that greater restrictions on fishing opportunities do not translate into proportional reductions in the extinction risk of Sacramento River winter Chinook.

The SAS appreciates that any control rule must necessarily reduce fishing impacts in response to lower Sacramento River winter Chinook abundances. Alternative control rules 3, 4 and 5 meet this criterion. Among these alternatives, the SAS prefers control rule 4 because it provides for a linear response as Sacramento River winter Chinook abundances fall. While the computer models suggest that control rules 3 and 5 offer comparable protection for the Sacramento River winter Chinook, the abrupt changes may result in under- or over-compensation in particular instances.

PFMC  
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