

CALIFORNIA COASTAL CHINOOK UPDATE

Northern California Chinook stocks include fall and spring stocks north of the entrance to San Francisco Bay. Primary river systems in this area are (from north to south) the Smith, Klamath, Mad, Eel, Mattole, and Russian rivers. Coastal Chinook stocks south of the Klamath River were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in September 1999. The ESA consultation standard for California Coastal Chinook relies on Klamath River fall Chinook (KRFC) as a surrogate and requires a forecast KRFC age-4 ocean harvest rate of no greater than 16.0 percent when developing salmon fishery management measures. This consultation standard has been a limiting factor in the management of salmon fisheries in California and Oregon in recent years.

The Council has expressed an interest in evaluating the feasibility of alternative management approaches for California Coastal Chinook primarily through the annual salmon methodology review process. A workshop was held at the 2013 April Council meeting in Portland, Oregon to review the status, monitoring, and management of these stocks. The workshop was primarily attended by Council advisory body members, as it occurred during a Council session. Participants were encouraged by the monitoring and assessment work being done by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and National Marine Fisheries Service, but most agreed that the existing data on these stocks is a limiting factor when considering alternative management approaches. Additionally, many felt that the Council would benefit from a review of the current monitoring effort, and thus this agenda item.

Mr. Michael Lacy with the CDFW Fisheries Branch in Sacramento will present an overview of the CDFW monitoring program for California Coastal Chinook (Agenda Item F.9, Attachment 1). Dr. Michael O'Farrell of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Southwest Fisheries Science Center will provide an overview of California Coastal Chinook status, data, and management strategy (for supporting materials refer to the March 2013 Briefing Book, Agenda Item C.3.b, Supplemental NMFS Report).

Council Action:

Discuss the CDFW presentation and consider California Coastal Chinook management issues.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.9.a, Attachment 1: California Coastal Salmonid Population Monitoring Strategy, Design, and Methods. CDFW, 2011.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider California Coastal Chinook Management Issues

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