

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON THE UNMANAGED FORAGE FISH
PROTECTION INITIATIVE

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) reviewed Agenda item H.1.a, the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup summary report on unmanaged forage fish and supports adoption of Alternative 2 (Preferred) which prevents future, directed fisheries from developing without scientific information, but allows for some incidental take. This Alternative strikes a reasonable balance in that it protects unmanaged forage fish from initiation of new fisheries in the absence of an Experimental Fishing Permit but still allows for the small level of take currently occurring in Council-area fisheries. We note that there will likely be little or no incidental take of these unmanaged forage species in west coast ocean salmon fisheries. The draft additions to the Salmon Fishery Management Plan that would implement Amendment 19 appear to be suitable to be sent out for public review, with one modification. On page 76, in the inserted text, “Amendment 15” should be changed to “Amendment 19”.

PFMC
09/11/14