

COUNCIL STAFF REPORT  
ON SALMON METHODOLOGY REVIEW PROCESS AND PRELIMINARY TOPIC  
SELECTION FOR 2010

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) guidance for developing 2010 salmon ocean management measures included a list of tasks that would reduce uncertainty of Lower Columbia River (LCR) natural tule Chinook recovery strategies, and which NMFS would use to determine an appropriate allowable recovery exploitation rate for managing 2011 fisheries. One of the items on that list was development of options for incorporating abundance driven management principles into Lower Columbia tule Chinook management.

Toward that end, the Council staff recommends convening a work group to examine various models currently in use for abundance based approaches, with a charge to develop a usable approach for LCR tule Chinook if possible. The Council also offers to take the lead in such an effort. We propose the process begin in the near term and conclude by the fall of 2011, such that any fishing mortality rate ceiling results could be used in the next LCR tule biological opinion for 2012 ocean salmon seasons, and potentially after that point as a possible Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendment in a formal Council setting (subject to an FMP amendment process beginning after November, 2011). We further propose that the process include a progress report during the Council's 2010 salmon methodology review process.

PFMC  
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