

GUIDANCE FOR OPTION DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENT

Developing management options is a complex process which may be assisted by following consistent procedures wherever possible. The recommendations below were developed by the Salmon Technical Team (STT), with input from the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), and approved by the Council to help guide the option development process. They are suggested guidelines and not inflexible requirements.

1. **March Management Options:**

- a. To aid option assessment, the Council urges pertinent agency and tribal managers to have the Fishery Regulation Assessment Models ready to run no later than the first day of the March Council meeting.
- b. On the first day of the March meeting, the Council should provide specific guidance for the allowable level of impacts on OCN coho and priorities for the allocation of impacts on critical stocks (e.g., Klamath River fall chinook, Sacramento River winter chinook, Snake River fall chinook, etc.). Council staff can modify the option tables to insure that these objectives are clearly identified and addressed. Each time the Council reviews the options, it should confirm or amend its guidance on the objectives and priorities.
- c. Generally, Option I should include the Salmon Advisory Subpanel's (SAS) priority seasons and management measures. Options II and III are used to show seasons in which one group or the other gets more or less of its priorities, to illustrate the effect of other management measures (e.g., variations in bag limits for recreational fisheries), or to allow for different inside/outside allocations (e.g., options north of Cape Falcon). The final adopted options should meet basic conservation requirements.
- d. SAS representatives should clearly identify their fishery priorities (e.g., first two fish, continuous season between Point X and Y, etc.) and engage in negotiations as necessary to resolve conflicts among gear groups and areas to arrive at cohesive and coordinated options.
- e. The SAS requests assessments of impacts off California include tables with data for all harvest cells, not just those below Point Arena.
- f. Avoid adopting more than three options. The Council should attempt to identify all significant or new management measures that might be considered for final adoption. However, it is not necessary or possible to model each potential option. Many variations can simply be noted in the description of the three main options. Additional options or variations may be provided for Council consideration during the public comment period which follows the March Council meeting. This period ends with completion of public comment on the tentative adoption of final management measures during the first day of the April Council meeting (Tuesday).

2. **April Meeting:**

The Council has indicated that on the last day of the March meeting, it will determine the schedule for final adoption of management measures at the April meeting (Thursday afternoon versus Friday).

PFMC
02/23/00