

UPDATE ON REVIEW OF OREGON COASTAL NATURAL COHO MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

Situation: Under Amendment 13 to the *Pacific Coast Salmon Plan* and by the terms of the Oregon Salmon Plan, the management of Oregon coastal natural (OCN) coho salmon is subject to a comprehensive, adaptive review this year. The purpose of the review is to assure the rebuilding program adopted in the Oregon Salmon Plan and Amendment 13 in 1997 still reflects the best science and approach to rebuilding the OCN coho stock. That approach also forms the basis for the current National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) biological opinion for Oregon coho stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act that are impacted in Council fisheries. In that regard, NMFS has recommended the work group consider changes to OCN coho management that are designed to minimize fishery impacts consistent with recent OCN stock size and survival rates and the low harvest rates achieved in the past two years (Supplemental Attachment B.5.b.).

In November 1999, the Council approved a review process and work group to be headed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel. The review is scheduled to provide preliminary recommendations to the Council at its September 2000 meeting. The work group has met three times and will report on the status of the review and issues yet to be resolved. Mr. Sam Sharr, ODFW, heads the work group. Council representatives are Drs. Pete Lawson, Robert Kope, and John Coon.

Council Action: Provide guidance to the work group for completing recommendations for technical changes to OCN coho management as provided in Amendment 13.

Reference Materials:

1. Excerpt of fishery management plan Section 3.3.2. Oregon Coastal Natural Coho (from Amendment 14) (Supplemental Attachment B.5.a.).
2. Letter of June 9, 2000 to Mr. Jim Lone from Mr. William Stelle, Jr. (Supplemental Attachment B.5.b.).

PFMC
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