

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT
REQUIREMENTS IN REGARD TO KLAMATH RIVER FLOWS

Situation: At the June 2000 Council meeting, representatives of the California Department of Fish and Game requested National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) brief the Council on NMFS responsibilities and actions with regard to assuring needed flows for salmon production in the Klamath River Basin. The need for increased Klamath River flows to support salmon production is a long standing issue which involves water management decisions of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation which favor competing water uses. Natural Klamath River fall chinook abundance is pivotal in establishing ocean salmon seasons and inside tribal fisheries. In addition, optimal freshwater production conditions are needed to protect threatened California coastal coho and recover depressed populations of naturally produced spring chinook.

A NMFS representative will brief the Council on the flow issue with regard to the roles of the Endangered Species Act and essential fish habitat requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Council Action: None. Briefing intended to help guide future agency or Council actions.

Reference Materials: None.

PFMC
08/29/00