

## FINAL REPORT OF THE OREGON COASTAL NATURAL COHO WORK GROUP

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 management measures adopted in Amendment 13 in 1997 still reflect the best science and approach to rebuilding the OCN coho stock.

In November 1999, the Council approved an Amendment 13 review process and work group to be headed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Mr. Sam Sharr heads the work group and provided the Council with the group's preliminary report at the September 2000 meeting. The final draft report has now been completed and is provided for your review in Exhibit B.3.b (OCN Work Group Report).

The final work group report provides several recommendations for technical changes to the management matrix which guides harvest rates for OCN coho in the Council's salmon fishery management plan (FMP).

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has briefly reviewed the report and believes it provides important concepts which should be considered further by the Council. If it so chooses, the Council could implement the work group's recommendations in at least three different ways.

1. In the short-term, the Council could simply utilize the recommendations as expert biological opinion to help guide establishment of the final harvest rate in 2001 and possibly even 2002 under the current FMP. The current FMP will require a harvest impact of no more than 15% in 2001 based on known very low parent stock size and projected marine survival of medium or better (also no more than 15% in 2002). Under very low parent stock abundance and projected medium marine survival, the Council balanced biological and socio-economic concerns by adopting an impact of 8.2% for 2000. Under the proposed alternative of the work group, the 2000 and 2001 fisheries would be limited to a maximum impact of 8% while the 2002 fishery could range from 8% to 25%, depending on marine survival (Table 6, page 30).
2. If the Scientific and Statistical Committee, Salmon Technical Team, and Council agree upon the need for specific technical changes proposed in the report which do not raise significant allocation issues, it may be possible to incorporate them into the current FMP without plan amendment prior to the 2001 salmon season (section 3.1.2 of Amendment 14).
3. The Council could propose the changes as a formal FMP amendment and begin that process (which could not be completed in time for the 2001 salmon season).

### **Council Action:**

1. Consider the recommendations of the OCN Coho Work Group for changes to the current management measures in the salmon FMP.
2. Determine which recommendations to implement and the timing and procedures for doing so.

### **Reference Materials:**

1. The 2000 Review of Amendment 13 to the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan (Exhibit B.3.b, OCN Work Group Report).

PFMC  
10/17/00