

Bonnie Behn

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE PACIFIC COAST SALMON PLAN TO REVISE THE
HARVEST MANAGEMENT MATRIX FOR OREGON COASTAL NATURAL COHO
AND
THE ALLOCATION SCHEDULE FOR COHO SALMON IN COMMERCIAL TROLL
AND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES SOUTH OF CAPE FALCON.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is proposing an amendment to the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan (FMP) to address the following issues:

1. Revision of the Amendment 13 harvest management matrix for Oregon Coastal Natural (OCN) coho to reflect scientific guidance from a 2000 review of Amendment 13 that was completed an ad hoc committee of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC).
2. Revision of the existing commercial/recreational allocation schedule for coho in fisheries south of Cape Falcon, OR to account for differential selective fisheries impacts in commercial troll and recreational fisheries.

Revision of the Harvest Management Matrix

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposed listing of OCN coho stocks under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1995. The PFMC approved Amendment 13 to the FMP in November 1997 (PFMC 1999) to insure that fishery related impacts on depressed OCN coho stocks would not act as a significant impediment to their recovery. Under Amendment 13, the historic annual estimates of both parental spawner abundance and marine survival for OCN coho are stratified by magnitude. The resulting "low", "medium", and "high" categories for the two attributes are then used to define two axes of a three by three harvest management matrix. Maximum allowable exploitation rates based upon estimates of habitat production potential are calculated for each combination of the parental spawner abundance and marine survival combinations in the matrix.

In November 1999, the PFMC approved the formation of an ad hoc OCN work group composed of representatives from ODFW, PFMC, and NMFS to complete a year 2000 review of Amendment 13. The review focused on parental spawner criteria, marine survival criteria, and allowable impact rates in the harvest management matrix. An amended matrix recommended by work group includes new categories at the low ends of ranges for both parental spawner and marine survival, allowable fishery impacts for new cells defined by these new categories, and some adjustments of allowable impacts in pre-existing cells. The amended management matrix affords additional protection for OCN coho populations when either parental spawner abundance or marine survival is very low. The recommendations of the OCN work group were reviewed by the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) of the PFMC in November of 1999 and adopted as scientific guidance by the PFMC in March 2001.

Revision of the Allocation Schedule for Coho

Selective fisheries on fin-clipped hatchery coho are a management tool that can provide recreational and commercial fishers access to surplus hatchery production while minimizing fishery impacts on wild fish. The PFMC has successfully used this tool since 1998 in some ocean recreational fisheries and since 2000 in some commercial troll fisheries to manage harvests of mass marked hatchery production while still meeting stringent impact constraints on depressed OCN coho under Amendment 13.

To date, in the waters south of Cape Falcon, only the recreational fishery off the central Oregon coast has selectively harvested fin-clipped hatchery coho. Coho retention is still prohibited in all commercial troll fisheries south of Cape Falcon and in all ocean recreational fisheries south of Humbug Mountain. The quota in the selective recreational fishery south of Cape Falcon has increased from 15,000 to 55,000 since 1999 and quotas of 100,000 or more fin-clipped fish are very likely when hatchery coho abundance is high and marine survival and parental spawner abundance for OCN improve.

The formulae for allocating coho salmon among commercial troll and recreational fisheries south of Cape Falcon have remained unchanged since the PFMC adopted the 1997 FMP. They allocate coho harvests in full retention fisheries where the mortality rate per fish encountered is the same for both marked and unmarked fish and likely the same or very similar for commercial and recreational fisheries. In contrast, mortality rates per fish encountered in selective fisheries are obviously quite different between marked and unmarked fish. Furthermore, because the hook and release mortality rate adopted by the PFMC for commercial troll gear is higher than the rate for recreational gear, the impact rate per unmarked fish encountered by the former is higher than for the latter. Consequently, the 1997 FMP method for allocating coho harvest and impacts between full retention commercial and recreational fisheries south of Cape Falcon is no longer applicable.

Amending the FMP

When the PFMC adopted the 2000 Plan Amendment Review as scientific guidance in 2001, ODFW indicated their desire to have recommendations in the review formally incorporated into an FMP amendment. The intent was to initiate the amendment process upon completion of a technical appendix that was recommended by the STT and SSC. However, it is apparent that the significant reductions in maximum allowable fishery impacts imposed by the amended harvest management matrix and the effects of selective fisheries that have been implemented to achieve those reductions will result in significant shifts in allocation between commercial and recreational fisheries. While Plan Amendment 14 addresses the effect of selective fisheries on allocation among fisheries North of Cape Falcon, it does not address fisheries South of Cape Falcon. Consequently, an amendment to the FMP that incorporates the revised harvest management matrix must also include a new allocation plan for fisheries south of Cape Falcon.

The technical changes to Plan Amendment 13 that were recommended by the OCN work group are well documented and have undergone extensive review and comment by agencies, stakeholders, the public, and PFMC science and technical teams. In contrast,

the proposal to amend the allocation plan for fisheries south of Cape Falcon is in the infant stage and has undergone no formal development. Consequently ODFW proposes the following tentative FMP amendment schedule:

- 1) March - June 2002
 - a) Formation of an informal scoping group with ODFW as lead agency
 - i) Agency Representatives Oregon
 - ODFW
 - CDFG
 - SAS Representation
 - Troll
 - Recreational
 - PFMC Staff
 - b) ODFW identifies initial list of allocation issues and potential range of options based on advice from informal scoping group.
 - c) Initiate formal PFMC amendment scoping process
 - i) Identify full suite of participants in formal scoping group
- 2) June - November 2002
 - a) SSC/STT final review of OCN work group recommendations
 - b) Formal scoping group completes draft of allocation issues and options.
- 3) March-June 2003
 - a) First draft of amendment
- 4) June - November 2003
 - a) Public hearings on proposed amendment
- 5) March 2004
 - a) Final adoption of amendment

