

EMERGENCY CHANGES TO THE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
(Excerpt from Council Operating Procedure 10)

Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate requests for emergency action by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce:

1. The issue was not anticipated or addressed in the salmon plan or an error was made.
2. Waiting for a plan amendment to be implemented would have substantial adverse biological or economic consequences.
3. In the case of allocation issues, the affected user representatives support the proposed emergency action.
4. The action is necessary to meet fishery management plan objectives.
5. If the action is taken, long-term yield from the stock complex will not be decreased.

Process

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will consider proposals for emergency changes at the March meeting and decide whether or not a specific issue appears to meet all the applicable criteria. If the Council decides to pursue any proposal, it will direct the Salmon Technical Team (STT) to prepare an impact assessment for review by the Council at the April meeting, prior to final action. Any proposals for emergency change will be presented at the public hearings between the March and April meetings. It is the clear intent of the Council that any proposals for emergency change be considered no later than the March meeting in order that appropriate attention be devoted at the April meeting to developing management recommendations which maximize the social and economic benefits of the harvestable portion of the stocks.

However, the Council may consider other proposals for emergency change at the April meeting if suggested during the public review process, but such proposals must clearly satisfy all of the applicable criteria and are subject to the requirements for an impact assessment by the STT.

PFMC
02/8/05