

TECHNICAL BASIS FOR THE KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

At its April meeting, the Council requested a briefing on the technical origin of the Klamath River fall chinook conservation objective of a spawning escapement floor of 35,000 naturally spawning adults. The floor was incorporated into the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) with Amendment 9 in 1989, and since that time, has been the limiting constraint in at least some ocean salmon fisheries almost every year. The low abundance of age-4 Klamath River fall chinook in 2005 resulted in severely constraining ocean salmon fisheries from Cape Falcon, Oregon to Monterey, California, as well as inriver tribal and recreational fisheries, in order to achieve the conservation objective (see Informational Report 1 for associated disaster relief requests).

Unlike most conservation objectives in the Salmon FMP, the 35,000 spawner escapement floor cannot be modified through the technical review process, but must go through a formal amendment process.

The STT has reviewed Salmon FMP Amendment 9 and related documents and will provide a summary of their findings (Agenda Item D.1.b, STT Report).

Council Task:

- 1. Consider the basis for the Klamath River fall chinook conservation objective.**
- 2. Provide guidance for further review as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.1.b, STT Report: Salmon Technical Team Report on the Technical Basis for the Klamath River Fall Chinook Conservation Objective.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Report of the Salmon Technical Team
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Guidance on Further Review and Consideration

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