

KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

At its September 2005 meeting, the Salmon Technical Team (STT) presented an analysis of Klamath River fall chinook stock-recruitment relationships (Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 1). The Council intent was to determine if there was sufficient new information to warrant consideration of a Salmon Fishery Management Plan amendment to change the conservation objective for Klamath River fall chinook. Subsequent testimony at the September meeting prompted the Council to delay action on the conservation objective to allow additional input into the decision, including:

1. Review of the STT analysis by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) (Agenda Item G.3.b, Supplemental SSC Report);
2. Klamath Fishery Management Council (KFMC) review of the analysis and recommendations on initiating an FMP amendment (Agenda Item G.3.d, Supplemental KFMC Report);
3. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) review of emergency rule making and other procedures to facilitate management flexibility regarding requirements for annual achievement of conservation objectives (Agenda Item G.3.c, NMFS Report); and
4. Implication of a possible *Ceratomyxa shasta* epidemic and other pathological conditions in the Klamath basin.

The current conservation objective for Klamath River fall chinook as listed in Table 3-1 of the Salmon FMP is:

“33%-34% of potential adult natural spawners, but no fewer than 35,000 naturally spawning adults in any one year. Brood escapement rate must average 33%-34% over the long-term, but an individual brood may vary from this range to achieve the required tribal/nontribal annual allocation. Objective designed to allow a wide range of spawner escapements from which to develop an MSY [maximum sustainable yield] objective or proxy while protecting the stock during prolonged periods of reduced productivity.”

The Salmon FMP also states:

“...changes or additions to the stock complexes and objectives for most natural stocks may be made without plan amendment. An exception is the 35,000 natural spawner floor for Klamath River fall chinook which may only be changed by FMP amendment.”

Council Action:

- 1. Determine if there is sufficient information to consider changing the Klamath River fall chinook conservation objective.**
- 2. Provide further guidance for investigating factors affecting recruitment of Klamath River fall chinook.**
- 3. Determine if there is sufficient flexibility in emergency rule making procedures to address unusual circumstances in the salmon management process.**
- 4. Consider initiation of a Salmon FMP amendment.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 1: Klamath River Fall Chinook Stock-Recruitment Analysis.
2. Agenda Item G.3.c, NMFS Report: NMFS Report on Use of Emergency Rules.
3. Agenda Item G.3.b, Supplemental SSC Report.
4. Agenda Item G.3.d, Supplemental KFMC Report.

Agenda Order:

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| a. Agenda Item Overview | Chuck Tracy |
| b. Report of the SSC | Bob Conrad |
| c. NMFS Report on Use of Emergency Rules | Eric Chavez |
| d. Report of the Klamath Fishery Management Council | Curt Melcher |
| e. Agency and Tribal Comments | |
| f. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies | |
| g. Public Comment | |
| h. Council Action: Consider Issues Relating to the Klamath River Fall Chinook Conservation Objective and Initiating an FMP Amendment | |

PFMC
10/14/05