

FMP AMENDMENT SCOPING FOR *DE MINIMIS* FISHERIES ASSOCIATED WITH
KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK IMPACTS

At its November 2005 meeting, the Council directed staff to initiate scoping for a Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendment to consider *de minimis* fisheries. The initial interest in a Salmon FMP amendment was the result of constraints on the 2005 fishery due to a depressed Klamath River fall Chinook run which precluded access to a record forecast abundance of Central Valley Chinook. The Council's direction came after Scientific and Statistical Committee review of the Salmon Technical Team analysis of stock recruitment relationships in the Klamath Basin, a recommendation from the Klamath Fishery Management Council (KFMC) to initiate an FMP amendment (Agenda Item C.1.a, Attachment 1), and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) review of emergency rule implementation and other procedures to facilitate management flexibility regarding requirements for annual achievement of conservation objectives.

The current status of Klamath River fall Chinook includes failure of the stock to meet the 35,000 natural spawning escapement floor for the past two years and a projection of not meeting the escapement floor in 2006, even without additional ocean fishing between Cape Falcon and Point Sur (fall 2005 Council area fisheries have already impacted the 2006 escapement). The latter condition triggers a Conservation Alert, which, according to the FMP, requires the Council to close salmon fisheries within its jurisdiction that impact the stock (Agenda Item C.1.a, Attachment 2). Fisheries that are not under Council jurisdiction could potentially reduce escapement even further. If the stock does not meet the escapement floor in 2006, it will trigger an Overfishing Concern, which will likely result in a declaration by NMFS of the stock being overfished and subsequent development of a rebuilding plan. Council staff has assembled some considerations for scoping an FMP amendment to address *de minimis* fisheries, both for salmon stocks in general, and for Klamath River fall Chinook in particular (Agenda Item C.1.a, Attachment 3).

Council Operating Procedure (COP) 11 outlines the process for an FMP amendment. The first meeting is a scoping session to identify pertinent issues, establish a schedule for completion, and identify a sponsor or advisory entities and staff (workgroup) to prepare an initial analysis. At the second meeting, the workgroup presents an initial draft amendment package for public review, and the Council decides on a range of reasonable alternatives, including a preferred alternative if possible. At the third meeting the Council reviews a draft National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of the amendment alternatives and adopts the final amendment for implementation by the Secretary of Commerce.

FMP amendments are not necessarily limited to one topic, and the Council may consider other issues to include in the amendment process. Topics recently identified include: updating conservation objectives for stocks, such as Puget Sound and Washington Coastal coho, Puget Sound Chinook, Sacramento Winter Chinook, and lower Columbia River coho; coho allocation south of Cape Falcon; EFH updates; and criteria for NEPA documentation of annual management measures.

Council Action:

1. **Identify issues that should be included in the FMP amendment process.**
2. **Identify alternatives that should be included in the initial analysis.**
3. **Identify a workgroup to develop the alternatives and analyses.**
4. **Set a preliminary schedule for completion of the FMP amendment process.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.7.a, Attachment 1: November 2005 Klamath Fishery Management Council Report on the Klamath River Fall Chinook Conservation Objective.
2. Agenda Item C.7.a, Attachment 2: Salmon FMP Chapter 3 Excerpt.
3. Agenda Item C.7.a, Attachment 3: Council Staff Scoping Considerations for Salmon FMP Amendment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Report of the Klamath Fishery Management Council
 - c. Agency and Tribal Comments
 - d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
 - e. Public Comment
 - f. **Council Action:** Provide Direction for Developing FMP Amendment Alternatives to Address *de minimis* Fisheries
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PFMC
02/21/06