

SUMMARY OF THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT KLAMATH COHO RECOVERY PLAN

On January 12, 2007 the President signed into law the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Section 315 of the updated Magnuson-Stevens Act includes several new requirements that the Secretary of Commerce must complete related to salmon in the Klamath River Basin. In particular, within 6 months after the date of enactment of the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Secretary of Commerce must complete a recovery plan for Klamath River coho salmon and make it available to the public. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be compiling and synthesizing the best available *existing* published information on coho salmon in the Klamath River in a cohesive framework to develop the “Magnuson-Stevens Act Klamath River Coho Recovery Plan”. The Magnuson-Stevens Act Klamath River Coho Recovery Plan should not be confused with the recovery plan that NMFS is currently developing for the federally-listed Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon evolutionary significant unit under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Magnuson-Stevens Act Klamath River Coho Recovery Plan will include the following: (1) overview of the status and trends of coho salmon populations in the Klamath Basin; (2) overview of coho salmon life history and habitat use; (3) coho salmon population structure and abundance and trends; (4) coho salmon population threats in the Klamath Basin; (5) an overview of completed and ongoing restoration efforts in the Klamath Basin; and (6) summarize coho salmon recovery and restoration goals from existing recovery plans or restoration programs specific to the Klamath Basin.

The Klamath River Coho Recovery Plan will be drawing heavily from existing recovery and restoration plans developed with substantial stakeholder participation (e.g., the California Department of Fish and Game Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon and the Trinity River Restoration Program). Since the Magnuson-Stevens Act Klamath River Coho Recovery Plan is not a regulatory document, it will not have regulatory authority over west coast ocean salmon fisheries. The effects of these fisheries on listed coho populations will continue to be controlled by the ESA biological opinion and incidental take statement issued by NMFS on April 28, 1996. NMFS will provide an update on the status of its development of the Magnuson Act Klamath River Coho Recovery Plan at the Council’s April 2007 meeting.