

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE SACRAMENTO RIVER WINTER
CHINOOK (SRWC) UPDATE

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) met via webinar on September 2, 2015 and heard from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regarding the status of Sacramento Winter Chinook (SRWC). The SAS remains supportive of SRWC recovery and is encouraged by the coordinated conservation effort. The SAS worked hard with the salmon fishing industry, CDFW, NMFS and the Council to develop a 2015 salmon fishery with conservation benefits to SRWC that exceeded those required under the current harvest policy and it would be disappointing to lose the potential production benefits of additional ocean escapement due to unfavorable freshwater conditions.

The SAS understands the continued concerns regarding SRWC, particularly the 2014 brood. The 2014 brood becomes more vulnerable to fisheries as age-3 adults in 2016 which will likely present management challenges as was the case in 2015. The SAS is ready to work through the Council process to address the issues. It would be helpful to fisherman, the fishing industry, and fishing communities if SRWC management objectives for 2016 were determined and communicated early in the preseason process for the 2016 fishing seasons.

PFMC
09/10/15