

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON SALMON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT  
(ESA) REINITIATION OF CONSULTATION WORKSHOP REPORT

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) met via webinar on September 2, 2015 and discussed salmon bycatch in groundfish fisheries and the results of the workshop. The SAS continues to recommend that the National Marine Fisheries Service consider bycatch impact allowances that vary annually in accordance to the projected abundance of salmon. This would be particularly important in years of low abundance of one or more stock where a constant reinitiation threshold may be insensitive to the bycatch of a relatively substantial proportion of smaller populations.

The SAS reviewed the Draft Proposal for Managing Salmon Bycatch in the Groundfish Fishery (Agenda Item H.6.a, NMFS Report 2). The SAS can appreciate the benefits to groundfish fisheries from the management flexibility of a fleet-wide threshold with a reserve mechanism, but the SAS is concerned about the potential for a concentration of salmon bycatch within a particular time and/or section of the coast if the bycatch reserve is sizable and is allocated to a specific sector or fishery. A concentration of salmon bycatch could create disproportionate adverse impacts to specific stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act.

PFMC  
9/10/15