

SALMON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) CONSULTATION UPDATE

In 2013, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Sustainable Fisheries Division requested to reinstate consultation pursuant to section 7 of the ESA on the take of listed salmonids in the groundfish fishery. Take of listed salmon in 2014, exceeding the reinstatement triggers, prompted NMFS to expand the scope of the reinstatement request.

In 2015, NMFS worked with the Council to begin development of the proposed action upon which the consultation would be based (see Agenda Item E.3, April 2015; Agenda Item D.3, June 2015; and Agenda Item H.6, September 2015). NMFS also sponsored a workshop in August 2015 to solicit additional stakeholder input.

At the September 2015 meeting, the Council adopted a motion and provided guidance to NMFS for analysis of a range of alternatives that will assist it in defining the proposed action on which NMFS will consult (see Attachment 1). The Council requested NMFS to update it on progress on its work at the current Council meeting. The Council also scheduled a final recommendation on the proposed action for September 2016; however the current Year-at-a-Glance Summary (Agenda Item I.3, Attachment 1) shows final action in November 2016. NMFS will update the Council on its planned consultation schedule and the impact of this potential delay in Council decision-making.

Council Action:

Provide Guidance on Options for the Proposed Action for the ESA Salmon Bycatch Consultation on the Groundfish Fishery.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.6, Attachment 1: Excerpt from September 2015 Council Meeting Record for Agenda Item.

Agenda Order:

G.6 Salmon Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation Update Kit Dahl

- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Provide Guidance on Options for the Proposed Action for the ESA Salmon Bycatch Consultation on the Groundfish Fishery