

ANNUAL MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE CHANGES AMENDMENT SCOPING

At the March Council meeting, the Council reviewed a March 4, 2016 letter from Mr. Phil Anderson, Pacific Salmon Commission (Commission) Chair, to Mr. Bob Turner, NMFS Assistant Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, regarding the U.S. Section of the Commission's recommended consideration of annual season-setting schedule adjustments.

The Council's existing salmon management schedule is described in detail under [Council Operating Procedure 9](#), available on the [Council's web page](#). The existing management cycle includes an intensive data gathering and analysis period in January and February followed by a compressed March and April Council meeting schedule; all of which is designed to culminate in the promulgation of ocean salmon fishery regulations by May 1.

The Council depends on a variety of inputs to achieve this goal such as information from the Commission's Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) on the modeling of fisheries in Canada and Alaska. The Commission is limited by the availability of forecasts and model inputs and has struggled over the years to provide timely information to the Council. The Commission's U.S. Section is particularly concerned that the current schedule does not allow the CTC sufficient time to assure the quality of its technical advice and has requested that the Council consider adjusting the annual management cycle. The necessary adjustments would likely include a delay of the April Council meeting and a delay in the May 1 start of the regulatory year.

At the March Council meeting, the Council decided to move forward with an initial scoping session at the upcoming April Council meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider initiating an amendment to modify the annual management schedule and identify issues to be addressed.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.5, Attachment 1: March 4, 2016 letter from Mr. Phil Anderson, Pacific Salmon Commission (Commission) Chair, to Mr. Bob Turner, NMFS Assistant Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, regarding the U.S. Section of the Commission's recommended consideration of annual season-setting schedule adjustments.

Agenda Order:

- E.5 Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection Mike Burner
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Consider Initiating an Amendment to Modify the Annual Management Schedule and Identify Issues to be Addressed, as Appropriate