

## SALMON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) CONSULTATION ANALYSIS

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. At the September 2015 meeting, the Council adopted a motion and provided guidance to NMFS for analysis of a range of fishery scenarios that will assist it in defining the proposed action on which NMFS will consult.

NMFS has completed its analysis of the fishery scenarios adopted by the Council in September 2015 (Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 1). NMFS has also provided supplementary information on its characterization of the groundfish fishery and salmon bycatch (Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 2).

At its April 2017 meeting, the Council is scheduled to make its final recommendations to NMFS on the Chinook bycatch thresholds for reinstating consultation and associated management actions to manage the bycatch thresholds, and to minimize bycatch of both listed and unlisted salmonids. At this meeting, the Council should consider the results of the analytical assessment of the range of scenarios provided at the September 2015 meeting and provide guidance on the use of the analysis to make its final recommendation in April. When NMFS receives final guidance from the Council, it will use the guidance to write a biological opinion to determine if the proposed action meets the requirements of the ESA.

### **Council Action:**

**Provide Recommendations on the Analysis.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 1: Alternatives for Salmon Bycatch Management in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fisheries.
2. Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 2: Salmon Bycatch in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fisheries.

### **Agenda Order:**

- I.1 Salmon Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation Analysis Kit Dahl
  - a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Provide Recommendations on the Analysis