

SALMON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) CONSULTATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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. Since then, NMFS has worked with the Council to develop the proposed action upon which the consultation would be based. At its March 2017 meeting, NMFS presented an analysis of estimated Chinook salmon bycatch under several fishery scenarios adopted by the Council in September 2015 (see [Agenda Item I.1, NMFS Report 1, March 2017](#)). Attachment 1 is a summary of that report. In addition to recommendations for the contents of future analyses supporting a biological opinion, the Council directed its Groundfish Management Team (GMT) to assist NMFS in developing revised Chinook salmon bycatch estimates based on recommendations made by the GMT (see [Agenda Item I.1, Revised Supplemental GMT Report, March 2017](#)). These revised estimates will be provided in a supplemental NMFS Report. The GMT will also submit a supplemental report addressing Council guidance.

At this meeting the Council is scheduled to make its final recommendations to NMFS. In making its recommendations the Council will: 1) choose a scenario that best represents future conditions in fisheries managed under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, 2) propose Chinook bycatch thresholds that may be used as a basis for reinstating section 7 consultation in the future, 3) identify measures to manage these bycatch thresholds, and 4) identify measures to minimize bycatch of both listed and unlisted salmonids. NMFS will use this guidance to write a biological opinion to determine if the proposed action meets the requirements of the ESA. The Council may wish to discuss with NMFS the timeline for completion of the opinion and future Council engagement with the Section 7 consultation process.

Council Action:

Provide Final Recommendations to NMFS on Chinook Bycatch Thresholds and Other Measures for the Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1: Summary of Scenarios for Salmon Bycatch Management in Fisheries Managed Under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.

Agenda Order:

- F.3 Salmon Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation Recommendations Kit Dahl
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Provide Final Recommendations to NMFS on Chinook Bycatch Thresholds and Other Measures for the Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation