

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON SALMON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT  
CONSULTATIONS ON SALMON AND SEABIRDS

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) has reviewed the report provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the progress of Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation for salmon taken in the groundfish fishery (Agenda Item F.7.b, Supplemental NMFS Report 1).

The SAS appreciates the work done by NMFS to date, and is encouraged that NMFS continues to support the recommendations outlined by the Council in April 2017, and is incorporating the Council's 'Proposed Actions' in the Biological Opinion.

The SAS also appreciates the efforts by the whiting fleet to avoid salmon bycatch. Discussions during April 2017 between the SAS and the whiting fleet proved to be productive. During the 2017 season, the whiting fleet honored the concept of 'moving off' fishing grounds that encountered a high volume of salmon. This helped reduce the salmon bycatch in the fishery. The SAS would encourage additional discussions between the two fleets as the groundfish fisheries continue to evolve.

The SAS continues to request that all salmon bycatch in the mid-water rockfish trawl and bottom trawl fishery be retained for genetic and quantitative coded-wire tag analysis to determine salmon stock composition, and that the data be made available in a timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

PFMC  
11/15/17