

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT UPDATE ON SALMON REBUILDING PLANS

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) has been charged with producing a salmon rebuilding plan (RP, or plans) for each of the five stocks that meet the criteria for being overfished. The draft plans are scheduled for Council review at the November 2018 Council meeting, and final plans are slated for adoption at the March 2019 Council meeting. The STT is required to propose the plans for Council consideration within one year and thus a tight schedule has been developed to meet this requirement.

At the April 2018 Council meeting, the STT provided a report outlining a tentative timeline for development of the five plans ([Agenda Item H.3.a](#)). At the June 2018 Council meeting, the STT provided a progress report ([Agenda Item C.11.a](#)), which included the work plan, detailed schedule, and information regarding a series of public meetings that occurred in June.

Since the June Council meeting, the STT has conducted 10 public meetings and is currently working on the third of four draft versions slated for each of the five RPs. The STT, with additional contributors, have gathered information for each of the five stocks and worked to assess the factors that led to escapement shortfalls. Progress continues on the development of recommendations for alternative rebuilding strategies. Tribal, state, and Federal agencies have made substantial contributions to many sections of these plans. Preliminary work has begun on the economic aspects of the potential rebuilding plan alternatives. Webinars focusing on finalizing rebuilding plan recommendations are scheduled for September 26 (Chinook stocks) and September 27 (coho stocks). In order to meet the advanced briefing book deadline for the November 2018 Council meeting, draft plans are targeted for submission to the Council office in early October.

The STT would like to bring one additional item to the Council's attention regarding the Strait of Juan de Fuca coho rebuilding plan. Based on escapement estimates for 2014-2016 published in the Review of 2017 Ocean Salmon Fisheries, the stock met the criteria for overfished status. Since publication of the Review, revised escapement estimates have been produced, which indicate that the three-year geometric mean over 2014-2016 would exceed the minimum stock size threshold and thus would not meet the criteria for overfished status. Additionally, a new, preliminary escapement estimate for 2017 suggests that the stock would meet the criteria for overfished based on the geometric mean of escapement computed over 2015-2017. The STT has discussed this issue and proposes moving forward with the development of the rebuilding plan using the 2014-2016 escapement estimates published in the Review of 2017 fisheries, which was the best information currently available when the overfished determination was made.