

SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT  
CONSULTATION RE-INITIATION UPDATE

At the March 2019 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) provided a guidance letter specific to Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW), which announced plans to reinitiate Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation on Council fisheries in 2019 (Attachment 1). NMFS suggested, and the Council agreed, that a collaborative approach would be appropriate, and establishing firm plans to accomplish the task was needed. The Council directed NMFS and Council staff to begin the scoping process, and report back at the April Council meeting with an update.

Since the March Council meeting, NMFS staff met via teleconference with tribal and state management entities along with Council staff to start the scoping process. Topics of discussion included: forming an ad-hoc group and identifying key participants, forming a technical group to focus on methodology and data analysis, and drafting a schedule to accomplish both short and long term tasks.

**Council Task:**

**Approve a process and schedule for collaboration with NMFS on reconsultation on effects to SRKW from Council area fisheries.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1: NMFS Guidance Letter on SRKW.
2. *Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1.*
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.3 Southern Resident Killer Whale Endangered Species Act Consultation  
Reinitiation Update Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Approve a Process and Schedule for Collaboration with NMFS on Reconsultation on Effects to SRKW from Council Area Fisheries