

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON SALMON REBUILDING PLAN UPDATE

Five draft salmon rebuilding plans were submitted for the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) consideration at the April 2019 meeting. Two Chinook rebuilding plans, which the Council adopted as drafts for public review in April, have again been submitted for Council consideration here at the June 2019 meeting with only minor changes from the April versions. Draft coho rebuilding plans have also been submitted for Council consideration at this meeting, each of which has been substantially updated. We briefly describe the changes to these five plans since the April meeting, and identify any remaining work needed for timely completion of the Chinook and coho rebuilding plans.

Chinook

The draft rebuilding plan reports for Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) and Klamath River fall Chinook (KRFC) remain relatively unchanged from the versions presented to the Council in April 2019. Modifications were largely editorial in nature and there were no changes to the core results. There were no public comments submitted that suggested or required any modifications to these plans. Following the schedule approved by the Council at the March 2019 meeting, the Council could consider adopting the Chinook plans as “final” here at the June 2019 Meeting.

Coho

The three draft rebuilding plans for Strait of Juan de Fuca, Queets, and Snohomish natural coho include two substantial additions to the April 2019 versions. Tribal and state co-managers have played an integral role in completing the analyses needed to fill the remaining gaps.

The first addition is the implementation of model-based projected rebuilding times for each alternative rebuilding strategy as well as the T_{MIN} scenario. The model used to project rebuilding times has been modified from an earlier version presented to the Council (November 2018) based on recommendations provided by the Scientific and Statistical Committee. In particular, future abundance is simulated by taking draws from an abundance distribution accounting for autocorrelation in the abundance time series (with the exception of Strait of Juan de Fuca natural coho, where there was no evidence for lag-1 autocorrelation). Additionally, realized 2017 adult escapement estimates are now being incorporated into the three-year geometric mean calculation for assessing rebuilt status. Model documentation and additional results can be found in appendices included in each plan. The projected rebuilding time is defined in these reports as the number of years needed for the probability of achieving rebuilt status to meet or exceed 0.50. However, the Council has the discretion to recommend a probability threshold greater than 0.50 for defining rebuilding times. Each of the rebuilding plans includes a table in section 4 that provides the probability of achieving rebuilt status by year, under each alternative and for the T_{MIN} scenario.

The second addition to the coho rebuilding plans is the socio-economic analysis (section 5). This analysis provides estimates of the economic impacts associated with the alternative rebuilding strategies, based on the structure of each strategy, projected rebuilding times, and recent levels of economic activity.

The inclusion of the rebuilding time and socio-economic analyses filled what the Salmon Technical Team (STT) views as the last remaining gaps in the coho rebuilding plans. Following the schedule approved by the Council at the March 2019 meeting, the Council could consider adopting these coho plans as “drafts for public review” here at the June 2019 meeting, which would align with the potential adoption of the final coho plans at the September 2019 meeting. The deadline for submitting the plans to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is September 18, 2019, which coincides with the last day of the September Council meeting.

Future Work

2019 STT Extended Schedule for Developing Salmon Rebuilding Plans (Jun. - Sept.)

Date	Task	Comments
June 18-25	June Council Meeting (San Diego)	Council adopts final Chinook rebuilding plans (tentative action); and adopts coho rebuilding plans for public review
Jun 26	STT/Co-managers work on plans	Based on Council direction provided at June Mtg
Aug 12	Due - Final drafts from co-managers to STT	
Aug 13	Due - Final drafts from STT to PFMC	
Aug 15	Submit for Sept Council Meeting	Sept. advanced briefing book deadline
Sep 11-18	Sept. Council Meeting (Boise)	Council adopts final coho rebuilding plans
Sep 18	Rebuilding plans are sent to NMFS	Sept. 18 is the due date to send the Chinook and coho rebuilding plans; no extensions

PFMC
06/11/19