

SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
CONSULTATION REINITIATION PROGRESS REPORT

At the March 2019 Pacific Fishery Marine Council (Council) meeting, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced plans to reinitiate Endangered Species Act consultation on the effect of Council-area ocean salmon fisheries on Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW). NMFS and the Council agreed on a collaborative approach and began establishing work plans and a tentative schedule.

At the April 2019 meeting, the Council formed the Ad Hoc SRKW Workgroup (Workgroup) and tasked the Workgroup with reassessing the effects of Council-area ocean salmon fisheries on the Chinook salmon prey base of SRKW. A draft Terms of Reference, which included the Workgroup's purpose and a proposed schedule, was also approved by the Council. Supporting documents can be found in the Council's April 2019 Briefing Book ([Agenda Item F.3.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#), April 2019 and [Agenda Item D.6.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1](#), April 2019). The NMFS memo officially requesting reinitiation is provided as Attachment 1.

The Workgroup held its first meeting on May 23-24, in Portland, Oregon. The main focus of this work session is to affirm the task and timeline, identify data gaps, develop risk assessment criteria and methods, and assign tasks to Workgroup members. The Workgroup is scheduled to provide a progress report at the June Council meeting and meet again in July 2019.

Council Action:

- 1. Review progress and consider the report of the SRKW .**
- 2. Provide Guidance on the Preliminary Risk Assessment Criteria and Methods, Proposed Schedule, and Future Analyses.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2, Attachment 1: NMFS re-initiation letter.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- G.2 Southern Resident Killer Whale Endangered Species Act Consultation
Reinitiation Progress Report Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Review Progress of the Ad Hoc Southern Resident Killer Whale Workgroup, and Provide Guidance on the Preliminary Risk Assessment Criteria and Methods, Proposed Schedule, and Future Analyses