

## REVIEW OF ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CYCLE

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council's) Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) includes a preseason schedule for setting annual management measures for ocean salmon fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California (Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1). Following the FMP's schedule, the Council adopts a range of alternatives for annual salmon management measures at the March Council meeting and adopts the final preferred alternative at the April Council meeting no later than April 15. Final Council recommendations are transmitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for review and approval by the Secretary of Commerce and rule promulgation by May 1. The annual management measures establish the salmon fishing season, which traditionally starts May 1, and the following year's pre-May fisheries.

The dates of the March and April Council meetings change every year, but typically occur during the first or second week of the month. Immediately following the April meeting, the Council transmits the proposed regulations to NMFS for approval and implementation by May 1. The Federal process for approval and implementation is complex, and NMFS reports that although the work is expedited, meeting the May 1 deadline is increasingly challenging, particularly when the April Council meeting is later in the month.

At the April 2019 meeting, NMFS reported that the regulations could not be processed in time for a May 1 opener, stating that May 6 was the earliest the fisheries could be begin ([Agenda Item F.1.e Supplemental NMFS Report 2, April 2019](#)). The Council agreed to further discuss this topic and consider potential changes to the preseason management cycle for future years.

Changes to the FMP schedule require a plan amendment, likely considered over three Council meetings. Revisions to the annual management cycle could not be completed in time for the upcoming 2020 preseason process. However, the Council may discuss ways to address the adoption of the 2020 management measures under the existing FMP.

### **Council Action:**

**Review proposed changes to the preseason management cycle and provide preliminary recommendations for 2020 and beyond.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1: Excerpts from the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan.
2. Agenda Item F.4.a, NMFS Report 1: Draft Proposal for Refinement of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Salmon Preseason Schedule.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

F.4 Review of Annual Management Cycle

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- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Review Proposed Changes to the Preseason Management Cycle and Provide Preliminary Recommendations for 2020 and Beyond

PFMC

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