

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON CURRENT HABITAT ISSUES

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) attended the Habitat Committee (HC) webinar on October 30, and attended the briefing for the Groundfish Advisory Panel by Council Staff Officer Jennifer Gilden.

The SAS is interested in multiple topics currently being discussed and under review of the HC, and appreciates the opportunity to provide the following comments.

- The SAS is appreciative of the letters previously sent by the Council to the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management addressing concerns about the proposed construction of a liquefied natural gas plant at Jordan Cove.
- The SAS has grave concerns about the finding of no jeopardy in the Bureau of Reclamation's Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the Central Valley Project. New water management operations will negatively impact all salmonids and other anadromous species in the Sacramento River, and will have a direct impact on the survival of Endangered Species Act-listed stocks. We support efforts by the Habitat Committee and Council to address these concerns through a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation. We agree with the Habitat Committee's assessment that there is not sufficient time to review the BiOp and address concerns during the comment period within the annual Council meeting schedule.
- The SAS supports the Klamath Dam removal project, and encourages the Council and the Habitat Committee to ensure that required hatchery mitigation will be maintained for eight years as stated in the settlement agreement. Sustained production at the Iron Gate hatchery is essential to ensuring that there is no drop in Klamath River fall Chinook abundance during the reintroduction period to the new spawning habitat.

PFMC
11/15/19