

Ad Hoc Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Fishery
Technical Work Group
Draft Terms of Reference and Timeline

******The timeline associated with the following tasks assumes the Council decision on consideration of the process would not occur until May 31, 2020 as allowed under the Stipulated Agreement and Stay of the Case. The timeline can be adjusted if an earlier decision is made******

1. Purpose

Develop a proposed abundance-based harvest control rule for the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) for Council consideration that would:

- allow fishing on abundant salmon stocks while not impeding the recovery of SONCC coho;
- establish fishery control rules in the form of fixed or tiered exploitation rates including consideration of control rules which substantially reduce exploitation rates at low abundance levels, and which may include minimum or target spawner levels;
- apply to all marine and freshwater fisheries affecting SONCC coho;
- evaluate the feasibility of taking into account the status of subcomponents of the ESU (e.g., Klamath and Trinity Rivers), marine and freshwater environmental conditions and other relevant factors as appropriate (similar to the Oregon Coast Natural coho salmon matrix).

2. Membership

- The Pacific Fisheries Management Council will establish an Ad Hoc SONCC Coho Technical Fishery Work Group (Workgroup).
- Membership will include technical representatives from:
 - Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Council)
 - NMFS West Coast Region (WCR)
 - NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC)
 - NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC)
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - The Yurok Tribe
 - The Hoopa Valley Tribe
 - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Contractors as deemed necessary or suggested by workgroup participating entities

- The Workgroup will choose from among its members a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Council will be responsible for administrative and logistical support. The Vice-Chair will act in instances where the Chair is unavailable.

3. Milestones

- Collect and summarize relevant information regarding the status of SONCC coho, biological characteristics, magnitude and distribution of fishing mortality, and marine and freshwater environmental indicators
- Develop a range of alternative fishery control rules.
- Analyze the biological risks and fishing related benefits of the alternative control rules.
- Assist the Council with developing a preferred alternative that can be recommended for adoption by the Council and to NMFS for ESA review within 18 months from the Workgroup's initial meeting.
- Consult with the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee and Salmon Technical Team on the analytical methods used to evaluate draft alternatives. The workgroup may consult with other Technical Committees as necessary or as directed by the Council.

4. Timeline

- Pre-meet: Presentation of TORs and timeline at the April 2020 Council meeting
- Council decides by May 31, 2020 whether to consider a process to develop the SONCC control rule and initiate workgroup
- Pre-meet:
 - pre-season abundance forecast feasibility meeting with WCR and SWFSC occurring (workgroup already in place);
 - invitations sent to participating parties;
 - NMFS (WCR, NWFSC & SWFSC) staff participants assigned and ready to engage (likely 4-6 technical staff [2 – 3 from the region and science center respectively, or potential contractors] successful implementation will require permanent staff to engage and carry through into the future);
 - FR notice of time/location of first workgroup meeting finalized (Council staff); Workgroup meetings will be open to public.
- Late-June 2020: initial meeting
 - introductions;
 - discussion/agreement about purpose of group
 - agreement on ground rules and operating procedures
 - dissemination/agreement on timeline;
 - coordination of tasks
 - discussion/catalog of current control rules and status information available;
 - establish criteria for control rules (e.g., acceptable risk to ESU, distribution among populations or tributaries);
 - discussion of potential methods to evaluate alternative control rules;

- discussion of work needed to develop abundance forecasts and river harvest model;
 - group assignment to address data gaps and suggested alternate control rules for discussion at next meeting;
 - group selection of Chair and Vice-Chair;
 - date/location confirmed for next meeting, FR notice of time/location (Council staff).
- Late-August 2020: second meeting
 - updates/additional population information provided to address data gaps identified at Month 1 meeting;
 - harvest control rule alternatives and the data necessary (e.g., forecast dependent, data used for environmental variables, stock subcomponents) for each are discussed and alternatives narrowed if possible,
 - group assignment to begin drafting analysis of each proposal presented at November (third) meeting;
 - date/location confirmed for next meeting, FR notice of time/location (Council staff).
- November 2020: third meeting
 - options for current forecasting/escapement methodology presented (if so – the following bullets are pushed to June 2021; if not – disregard this bullet);
 - draft analysis report for proposals presented to group indicating relative risk of each preliminary alternative identified in second meeting to ESU (and other criteria, e.g., acceptable risk on the relative strength of the various contributing populations such as Trinity River Basin populations, environmental indicators) ;
 - discussion if suite of alternatives is adequate/possible revision of alternatives,
 - IF alternatives are added based on initial draft report, these items will all repeat during next meeting;
 - discussion/questions of analysis for each alternative;
 - group assignment to update draft analysis report accordingly per discussions;
 - group assignment to present alternatives and draft risk assessment report to each parties' respective constituency; schedule meeting to present to Council's Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW), Salmon Technical Team (STT), and Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for methodology and analytical reviews if necessary;
 - Chair and Vice-Chair present range of alternatives, preliminary recommendation and draft report to the Council;
 - date/location confirmed for next meeting, FR notice of time/location (Council staff).
- January webinar 2021: fourth meeting
 - discuss input received from Council presentation and parties' constituencies
 - update alternatives per discussions and input from SAS, SSC, and other tribal or state input sources outside Workgroup;
 - group assignment to revise report for updated alternatives per external recommendations;
 - group assignment to present alternatives and revised report to each parties' respective constituency in time to present for March or April Council meeting
- March or April 2021: fifth meeting
 - Schedule meeting to present to Council's Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) and other advisory bodies as necessary;

- workgroup presents its recommendation to the Council for consideration in selection of a preferred alternative;
- date/location confirmed for next meeting, FR notice of time/location (Council staff).
- June 2021 webinar (if necessary): sixth meeting
 - Consider additional guidance provided at the March or April 2021 meeting
 - A group assignment to revise report for updated alternatives per external recommendations;
 - group assignment to present alternatives and revised report to each parties' respective constituency in time to present for March or April Council meeting
- November 2021: sixth meeting
 - Discuss final alternatives for public review and comment (September if necessary);
 - The Council recommends its adoption of its preferred alternative recommendation and transmits to NMFS via signed letters for Section 7 consultation;

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