

AMENDMENT 20: ANNUAL MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE AND BOUNDARY CHANGE

At its April 2019 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) received a [report](#) from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) which stated that the 2019 regulations for ocean salmon fisheries could not be processed in time for the traditional start date of May 1. NMFS highlighted the increased challenge in completing the regulatory work needed given the complex approval process and short timeframe not just in 2019, but in future years as well. NMFS strongly encouraged the Council to develop a long-term solution to the re-occurring timing issues and were prepared to assist in that effort. Since the [Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan](#) (FMP) includes a preseason schedule for setting the annual season, any changes to the FMP schedule would require a plan amendment.

At its September 2019 meeting, the Council considered the [NMFS report](#) on the salmon preseason schedule. The report outlined the issue and provided potential solutions. The Council tasked Council staff and NMFS staff (the Project Team) to develop a workplan and timeline for a potential amendment to the FMP that would modify the annual salmon preseason schedule consistent with the proposals requested by NMFS, and report back to the Council at its November 2019 meeting.

Also at the September 2019 Council meeting, under the Salmon Methodology Review agenda item, the Salmon Technical Team (STT) was instructed to conduct the technical analysis needed to inform a change of the salmon management boundary line from latitude 40° 05' (Horse Mountain, California) five miles north to latitude 40° 10', and report back at its November meeting.

At the November 2019 Council meeting, the Project Team provided a [draft workplan](#) for the proposed changes to the salmon preseason schedule for Council consideration, which included a purpose and need statement, scope of action and range of alternatives. The report also included some minor 'housekeeping' changes to the FMP that should also be made. Under a separate agenda item, the Council considered the [STT report](#) on potential implications of the proposed salmon management boundary change. The Council agreed to move forward with the amendment process for both the proposed preseason schedule and the boundary change. The Council adopted the purpose and need statement, scope of action and range of alternatives for the preseason schedule change. The Council also acknowledged the desire to have the amendment process for the preseason schedule complete in time for the 2021 ocean salmon season, and decided that both topics could be part of FMP Amendment 20 (A20), as long as the boundary topic did not hinder the progress of the preseason schedule change. Consistent with Council Operating Procedure [\(COP\) 11](#), this meeting constituted the first of three meetings in a typical FMP amendment cycle.

Since November 2019, the Project Team conducted the scoping exercise needed to determine the level of analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the proposed changes. The preseason schedule change was classified as a 'Categorical Exclusion' since the change is essentially administrative. It was deemed that the boundary change would require an 'Environmental Analysis' since the change would have some unknown (although likely minor)

effect on salmon stocks and fisheries. Regardless of the two pathways for these topics, the Project Team has strived to keep both issues on the same timeline so that they can both be part of A20.

The Project Team has submitted a report (Attachment 2) addressing both topics and includes the purpose and need statement, scope of action and range of alternatives. The Council is scheduled to adopt the purpose and need and scope of action for the boundary change and preliminary preferred alternatives for both the preseason schedule change and the boundary change. This scenario would be the most efficient and allow both topics to move through the amendment process under the same timeline. Excerpts from the FMP are provided in Attachment 1 which includes sections related to both items under consideration.

This topic (FMP A20) is currently on the Council schedule in September 2020 for final preferred alternatives (proposed preseason schedule and boundary change). If the Council chooses to amend the FMP with the proposed schedule change, then [COP 10](#), which describes the preseason salmon management process, will also have to be updated.

Council Action:

Review Progress on Amendment 20, Adopt a Range of Alternatives, and Consider Preliminary Preferred Alternatives, As Appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 1: Excerpt from Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan.
2. Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 2: Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan: Amendment 20: Proposed change to the preseason schedule and to the Klamath Management Zone boundary.
3. If received, public comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.3 Amendment 20: Annual Management Schedule and Boundary Change Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Review Progress on Amendment 20, Adopt a Range of Alternatives, and Consider Preliminary Preferred Alternatives, As Appropriate

PFMC
05/15/20