

SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALE
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT CONSULTATION – FINAL ACTION

In response to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reinitiating Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation on the effect of Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council)-area ocean salmon fisheries on Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW), the Council formed the Ad Hoc SRKW Workgroup (Workgroup) in April 2019. The Workgroup was tasked with reassessing the effects of Council-area ocean salmon fisheries on the Chinook salmon prey base of SRKW, and if needed recommend conservation measure(s) or management tool(s) intended to further limit Council-area fishery impacts on Chinook salmon prey availability for SRKW.

The Workgroup first focused on developing a risk assessment to help inform the Council of potential impacts to SRKW resulting from of implementation of the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) conducted a technical review and provided an [SSC report](#) in support of the analytical methods and materials in the risk assessment. In June 2020, the Council adopted the Workgroup's [risk assessment report](#).

In September 2020, the Workgroup provided a [report](#) that included a purpose and need statement, scope of action, and a draft range of alternatives and recommendations for Council consideration. The Council adopted a range of management alternatives for public review and asked the Workgroup to provide additional information at the next Council meeting in November 2020.

The Workgroup has provided three reports under this agenda item. Report 1 is essentially the same report provided in September and provides the range of alternatives, except the list of responses in section 3.1.2.e are in ~~strikeout~~. Report 2 provides an updated version of Section 3.1.2.e with the list of responses clarified to help in Council decision making. Report 3 provides details on forecast bias and is in response to Council guidance from September. It is anticipated NMFS will provide a supplemental report comparing the alternatives and the general fishery socioeconomic effects.

Since the September meeting NMFS determined the regulatory process for implementing any action besides status quo will be an amendment to the Pacific Salmon FMP.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt a Final Preferred Alternative to Amend the Salmon Fishery Management Plan**
- 2. Consider Other Recommendations of the SRKW.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.2.a, SRKW Workgroup Report 1: Pacific Fishery Management Council Salmon Fishery Management Plan Impacts to Southern Resident Killer Whales: Draft Range of Alternatives and Recommendations with Strikeout.
2. Agenda Item F.2.a, SRKW Workgroup Report 2: Updated list of responses.
3. Agenda Item F.2.a, SRKW Workgroup report 3: Forecast accuracy report.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.2 Southern Resident Killer Whale Endangered Species Act Consultation
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Final Preferred Alternative

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PFMC
10/20/20