

SOUTHERN OREGON/NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST COHO  
WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORT

Since its formation at the April 2020 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, the Ad Hoc SONCC Workgroup (Workgroup) has held three meetings. The initial meeting, held in June, was focused on providing background information on SONCC coho salmon and refining the Terms of Reference. The second Workgroup meeting was held in August, and was focused on identification of data needs, development of the risk assessment framework, and preliminary control rule development. Between the August meeting and a third meeting in October, the Workgroup continued to assemble data, analyze data, develop potential control rules, assess the feasibility of abundance forecasting, and build the risk assessment modeling approach.

Among the Workgroup's tasks for the October 2020 meeting, identified in the Terms of Reference, was to "prepare document with range of alternatives, preliminary recommendation and draft report for Chair and Vice-Chair to present Workgroup report to the Council at the November 2020 Council meeting". The Workgroup has not made sufficient progress developing a range of alternatives and evaluating those alternatives with the risk assessment model to make a preliminary recommendation. As a result, the Workgroup will submit a supplemental report for the November Council meeting that will include background information on SONCC coho salmon, fisheries affecting SONCC coho salmon, abundance forecasting, a preliminary suite of control rules, and a draft evaluation of those control rules with the risk assessment model. The information, while preliminary, should be sufficient for the Council to provide additional direction if necessary.

Progress toward developing a full evaluation of control rules has been slowed by several factors. Besides a variety of workload issues, wildfires in Oregon and California also directly and indirectly affected members of the Workgroup. Furthermore, the ongoing issues of working under COVID-19 restrictions remain a challenge and this has added considerably to agency workloads as they strive to fulfill their basic obligations for monitoring and reporting during the annual management cycle.

PFMC  
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