

Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Fishery
Ad Hoc Technical Workgroup
Terms of Reference and Timeline
(June 16, 2020)

1. Purpose

Develop a proposed harvest control rule for the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) for Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council, PFMC) consideration that would:

- allow fishing on abundant salmon stocks while not impeding the recovery of SONCC coho;
- establish harvest control rules in the form of fixed or tiered exploitation rates including consideration of control rules which reduce exploitation rates at low abundance levels, and which may include minimum or target spawner levels;
- assess a range of control rules including marine and freshwater fisheries combined, the marine and freshwater fisheries components, and marine fisheries only, affecting SONCC coho as appropriate, given potential data limitations, and what is feasible to accomplish within the timeline described below;
- evaluate the feasibility of considering the status of subcomponents of the ESU (e.g., Klamath and Trinity Rivers), marine and freshwater environmental conditions and other relevant factors as appropriate and as supported by the data available (similar to the Oregon Coast Natural coho salmon matrix).

2. Membership

- The Council will establish an Ad Hoc SONCC Coho Technical Work Group (Workgroup, WG).
- Membership will include technical representatives from:
 - Pacific Fisheries Management Council
 - NMFS West Coast Region (WCR)
 - NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC)
 - NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC)
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Yurok Tribe
 - 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 Vice-Chair will act in instances where the Chair is unavailable. The Council will be responsible for administrative and logistical support.

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 harvest control rules.
- Analyze the biological risks and fishing related benefits of the alternative control rules.
- Assist the Council with developing a preferred harvest control rule 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 (SSC) and Salmon Technical Team (STT) on the analytical methods used to evaluate draft alternatives. The Workgroup may consult with other Council Advisory Bodies and 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 (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.
- June 2020: initial first meeting (on-line)
 - introductions;
 - discussion/agreement on purpose of group (as defined by the Council);
 - establish ground rules and operating procedures;
 - develop proposed timeline;
 - group selection of Chair and Vice-Chair;
 - approve final Terms of Reference for Council endorsement
 - coordination/outline of tasks;
 - discussion/catalog of current control rules and status information available;
 - establish criteria for alternative control rules (e.g., acceptable risk to ESU, distribution among populations or tributaries);
 - discussion of potential methods to evaluate alternative control rules;
 - discussion of potential development of abundance forecasts methods and a river harvest model; identify data gaps, estimate workload and timeline needed to complete.
 - group assignment to address data gaps, and suggested alternate control rules, and investigate potential forecast/model development for discussion at next meeting;
 - define/assign specific tasks and products expected with due date
 - date/location confirmed for next meeting, FR notice of time/location (Council staff).

- August 2020: second meeting (on-line)
 - updates/additional population information provided to address data gaps identified at June (first) Workgroup meeting;
 - group discussion of harvest control rule alternatives and the data necessary (e.g., forecast dependent, data used for environmental variables, stock subcomponents) for each are identified; potential alternatives are narrowed if possible,
 - group assignment to begin drafting analysis of each potential control rule, due prior to the November (third) Workgroup meeting;
 - date/location confirmed for next meeting, FR notice of time/location (Council staff).

- October 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 (risk assessment) for proposals presented to Workgroup indicating relative risk of each potential harvest control rule (HCR) 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 HCR alternatives are added based on initial draft report, these items will all repeat during next meeting;
 - discussion/questions of analysis for each HCR alternative;
 - Workgroup assignment to update draft risk assessment accordingly per discussions;
 - Workgroup assignment to present HCR 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 as necessary; meetings to occur prior to, or during the November 2020 Council meeting;
 - 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;
 - date/location confirmed for next meeting, FR notice of time/location (Council staff).

- January 2021: fourth meeting (on-line)
 - 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

- April 2021: fifth meeting
 - Schedule meeting to present to Council's Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) and other advisory bodies as necessary in preparation for April 2021 Council meeting;
 - Chair and Vice-Chair presents Workgroup recommendation to the Council for consideration in selection of a preliminary preferred alternative;
 - date/location confirmed for next meeting, FR notice of time/location (Council staff).

- June 2021 webinar : sixth meeting
 - Consider additional guidance provided at the April 2021 meeting
 - 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 September 2021 Council meeting.
- October 2021: seventh meeting
 - Discuss final alternatives for public review and comment (September if necessary);
 - Prepare for November 2021 Council meeting: draft Workgroup report for Chair and Vice-Chair to provide to the Council for adoption of final preferred alternative recommendation. Council transmits recommendation to NMFS via signed letters for Section 7 consultation.