

NMFS' UPDATED GUIDANCE ON  
OREGON COAST (OC) COHO SALMON ESU

The NMFS guidance letter (Agenda Item E.4.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1, page 14) incorrectly states that, based on the 2000 Ad Hoc OC Natural Coho Workgroup report, the total exploitation rate for 2021 marine and freshwater salmon fisheries is limited to 15 percent for all three sub-aggregates. While this limit is correct for the north and north-central sub-aggregates, it is incorrect for the south-central sub-aggregate. Based on the harvest matrix developed by the 2000 ad hoc OC Natural Coho Workgroup, the 2021 total exploitation rate, meaning both marine and freshwater salmon fishery impacts combined, should be limited to no more than 30 percent (rather than 15 percent as originally specified in the guidance letter) for the south-central sub-aggregate. This is based on the “high” parental escapement status for the south-central sub-aggregate, coupled with the “medium” marine survival index. Ocean salmon fisheries are managed for the most limiting of the three OC sub-aggregates, therefore, our 2021 guidance remains unchanged.