

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE SOUTHERN OREGON/NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST COHO ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) heard a report from the Ad Hoc Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Workgroup (Workgroup) and is appreciative of the amount of work that has been completed in a short amount of time and with limited data. The SAS has the following comments and recommendations focused on refining the proposed range of alternatives.

The SAS notes several of the stocks have data limitations and preliminary assessments suggest that some are at a relatively high risk of extinction in the absence of fisheries due to freshwater habitat issues. Additionally, the future availability of some of the existing data sources is uncertain and the annual availability of some indices is not timely enough to inform the preseason management schedule making them less desirable for use in management tools. Therefore, the SAS generally supports harvest control rules that aggregate stocks and are less reliant on the timely availability of considerable amounts of data.

Specifically, the SAS recommends that the Council narrow the range of alternatives by:

- Focusing on alternatives based on total exploitation rates rather than those based solely on ocean exploitation rates (i.e., harvest control rules 5-7 and 11)
- Narrowing the constant total exploitation rate rules to one fixed at least at 26 percent and one at zero to illustrate stock responses in the absence of fishing
- Narrowing the abundance based rules to those that aggregate stocks (i.e., consider removing alternatives based solely on Klamath or Trinity or Freshwater Creek)
- Continue to further develop the matrix concept for future consideration as Workgroup workload allows

The SAS notes that Klamath River dam removal could have substantial and beneficial impacts to stocks in that basin and may require the Council and National Marine Fisheries Service to revisit this issue.