

SOUTHERN OREGON/NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COHO
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT CONSULTATION PROCESS

Consistent with the Stipulated Agreement and Motion to Stay Case (Stay) reached between the Hoopa Valley Tribe and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NMFS and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) are in the midst of a process to develop a harvest control rule for Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho. In April and June 2020, the Council formed the Ad Hoc SONCC Coho Workgroup (Workgroup), and adopted a Terms of Reference and Timeline that describes the Workgroup's purpose, membership, milestones, and timeline. The Workgroup's primary task is to develop a range of harvest control rule alternatives for Council consideration from which the Council would adopt a preferred alternative for recommendation to NMFS. The work is anticipated to be completed within 18 months from the Workgroup's initial meeting, which occurred in June 2020. Under this timeline, and consistent with the Stay, a final preferred alternative would be considered at the November 2021 Council meeting.

If changes to the SONCC coho harvest control rule are adopted for implementation, then an amendment to the Salmon Fishery Management Plan may be needed.

In November 2020, the Workgroup provided a draft Risk Assessment which included a preliminary set of harvest control rule alternatives. In April 2021, the Workgroup provided a progress report to the Council summarizing work performed since November 2020, the status of the Risk Assessment, and potential harvest control rules being developed in preparation for Council consideration at the June 2021 meeting. The Scientific and Statistical Committee will review the technical aspects of the Workgroup's Risk Assessment during the June 2021 meeting. The Salmon Advisory Subpanel has also been briefed on the Workgroup's progress multiple times, including the June 2021 meeting.

The Workgroup has met six times since their inception in June 2020, and three more meetings are scheduled between July and November 2021. The past year has been challenging given COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 wildfire season, and the short timeline for the Workgroup to complete this large project. Despite these challenges, the Workgroup has developed a Risk Assessment and potential harvest control rules for Council review. The Workgroup will continue to refine their analysis of alternative control rules within the timeline provided, and incorporate any guidance provided here by the Council.

Council Action:

- 1. Review the revised Risk Assessment and adopt a range of alternatives, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.1.a, Workgroup Report 1 (*electronic only*): Pacific Fishery Management Council Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho: Fishery Harvest Control Rule Risk Assessment
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.1 Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Endangered Species Act Consultation Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Review the Revised Risk Assessment and Adopt a Range of Alternatives, As Appropriate

PFMC
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