

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.

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.

At the June 2021 Council meeting, The Workgroup provided an [updated draft Risk Assessment](#) with several potential harvest control rules for Council consideration. Also, the [Scientific and Statistical Committee report](#) on its review of the technical aspects of the Workgroup's current Risk Assessment stated the framework for the Risk Assessment was sound, but noted "the lack of data for informing management decisions involving SONCC coho and the considerable uncertainty this introduces into the risk assessment". The Council provided [guidance](#) to the Workgroup to focus, in part, on harvest control rules that include constant (fixed rate) total (ocean and freshwater) exploitation rates that include 0 percent and a range between 7 and 20 percent, with incremental increases on the higher end of the range (13-20 percent).

Since the June Council meeting, the Workgroup has met twice (July and August 2021) to address the Council's guidance. Building upon the most recent draft risk assessment presented at the June 2021 meeting, the Workgroup will provide an updated draft risk assessment for the September 2021 Council meeting that evaluates the Range of Alternative harvest control rules defined by the Council, assesses performance of different control rules with regard to ocean fisheries, and includes additional information to aid the reader in interpreting the results of the risk assessment. The updated risk assessment was still under review by the Workgroup at the time of the advanced briefing book deadline, but it is anticipated the risk assessment will be available in the supplemental materials.

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) has been briefed multiple times on the Workgroup's progress in conjunction with the Council meetings, and SAS members have attended Workgroup meetings over the past year.

**Council Action:**

**Review the Risk Assessment and Range of Alternatives and Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Alternative Harvest Control Rule, as Appropriate.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

**Agenda Order:**

- F.3 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 Risk Assessment and Range of Alternatives and Adopt a Preliminary Preferred Alternative Harvest Control Rule, As Appropriate

PFMC  
08/18/21