

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON  
SOUTHERN OREGON/NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST COHO  
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) was briefed September 10, 2021, on the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation process by Susan Bishop from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Mike O'Farrell (Ad Hoc SONCC coho Workgroup Chair). The STT has been following the consultation process and provided a [statement](#) at the June 2021 Council meeting. The STT also notes that the Science and Statistical Committee has reviewed the analysis used in the risk assessment and provided its [statement](#) to the Council also in June 2021.

At the June 2021 meeting, the Council provided guidance to the SONCC Workgroup to focus on fixed rate harvest control rules that include both ocean and freshwater impacts, i.e. a total Exploitation Rate (ER). Although the concept of using a total exploitation rate is not a new one in fishery management, it is different from the 'ocean only' rate currently used to manage SONCC coho in Council area fisheries.

The STT has considered the technical aspects of calculating a total ER and has tentatively concluded that it can conduct the necessary analysis for the preseason salmon process and post season evaluation. The STT notes that timely delivery of appropriate data and coordination among co-managers for data sharing, etc. will be critical for the purposes of projecting a total ER during the preseason fisheries planning process and postseason assessments.

The STT appreciates the SONCC Workgroup's thorough analysis and will look forward to future updates and refinements to the Workgroup report.

PFMC  
09/11/21