

SOUTHERN OREGON/NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST COHO
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT HARVEST CONTROL RULE – FINAL ACTION

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 engaged in 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, and 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 another [draft Risk Assessment](#) with several potential harvest control rules for Council consideration, and the Scientific and Statistical Committee provided a [report](#) on its review of the technical aspects of the Workgroup’s current 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).

At the September 2021 Council meeting, the Workgroup provided a final draft [Risk Assessment](#) for Council consideration that included 10 harvest control rule Alternatives. The Council provided [guidance](#) to the Workgroup, asking for additional information be included in Risk Assessment. The Council did not identify a preliminary preferred alternative.

In preparation for the November 2021 Council meeting, the Workgroup met for a two-day meeting in October to discuss the Council’s guidance. Building upon the most recent draft Risk Assessment presented in September, the Workgroup has provided an updated draft Risk Assessment for the November 2021 Council meeting that includes the additional information requested by the Council (Agenda Item F.3.a, SONCC Workgroup Report 1). It is anticipated that the Workgroup will submit additional information as a supplemental report.

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) has been briefed multiple times on the Workgroup’s progress and SAS members have attended Workgroup meetings over the past year. The SAS is scheduled to review the most recent Risk Assessment and provide recommendations at the November Council meeting.

Council Action:

Review the Risk Assessment and Range of Alternatives and Adopt a Final Preferred Alternative Harvest Control Rule for Recommendation to NMFS.

Reference Materials:

1. F.3.a, SONCC Workgroup Report 1 (*Electronic Only*) Fishery Harvest Control Rule Risk Assessment.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.3 Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Endangered Species Act Consultation – Final Action 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 Final Preferred Alternative Harvest Control Rule

PFMC
10/27/21