

B.1 Southern Oregon / Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Harvest Control Rule – Final Action

Council Action:

- Consider Rescinding a Motion Adopted in November 2021 Regarding the SONCC Coho Harvest Control Rule
- Review the Risk Assessment and Range of Alternatives,
- Adopt a Preferred Harvest Control Rule, and
- Consider an Amendment to the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan, as Appropriate.

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

I move the Council rescind the action regarding the SONCC coho harvest control rule adopted at it's November 2021 meeting, Agenda Item F.3.

Moved by: Chris Kern

Second by: Virgil Moore

Motion passed unanimously.

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

I move that the Council adopt the following as the final preferred alternative SONCC coho salmon harvest control rules for amendment of the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan:

Establish a conservation objective that would represent each individual population within the SONCC coho salmon ESU except for the Trinity River population unit (Upper Trinity River, Lower Trinity River, South Fork Trinity River) as described for Harvest Control Rule 5 in the Ad-Hoc Southern Oregon/Northern California Coho Workgroup Risk Assessment for management of SONCC coho salmon (Agenda Item F.3.a SONCC Workgroup Report 1, November PFMC). Harvest Control Rule 5 represents a total fishery exploitation rate (ER) limit of 15 percent. Establish a conservation objective for the Trinity River coho salmon population unit as described for Harvest Control Rule 6 in the Workgroup's Risk Assessment. Harvest Control Rule 6 represents a total fishery ER limit of 16 percent. Both harvest control rules encompass all ocean and inland sources of fishery mortality, including landed and non-landed mortality of age-3 adult SONCC coho salmon in any individual year.

During its annual salmon preseason planning process, the Council would plan ocean fisheries using the coho Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) so that, when combined with freshwater ERs, the preseason projected total ER does not exceed the applicable Harvest Control Rule described previously in this motion. The in-river ER population unit-specific inputs will be determined using projections provided by co-managing agencies. Postseason exploitation rates for SONCC coho salmon would be estimated for each year once available postseason harvest and abundance estimates become available. Coho-directed fisheries and coho retention in Chinook-directed fisheries will remain prohibited in the Exclusive Economic Zone off of California.

Moved by Joe Oatman

Second by Marci Yaremko

Motion passed unanimously.

I move that the Council direct the Salmon Technical Team (STT), working with the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW), to generate a report on the work required to investigate the potential for improvements to forecasts of SONCC coho salmon ocean exploitation rates consistent with the recommendation of the SONCC Coho Workgroup (Workgroup) in Section 8 of its Risk Assessment, and present its report and findings to the Council at the September, 2022 Council meeting. An evaluation of the work required to assess potential bias in preseason versus postseason exploitation rates should be included in the STT report.

In its report, the Workgroup recommended that *“an investigation be conducted to determine if the methods used to forecast ocean fishery exploitation rates for both hatchery and naturally produced SONCC Coho Salmon could be improved upon. This investigation should initially be focused on analyses that can be conducted using existing data. The investigation should also identify whether new methods could improve the forecasts of marine exploitation rates on SONCC Coho Salmon if additional data were available (e.g. GSI or CWT’s and adipose fin clips on all hatchery fish).”*

The request is for the STT to assess the work and estimate the time required to complete the investigation recommended by the Workgroup, not to conduct the work itself. After this assessment is completed, the Council would then consider the STT report to determine further action.

Moved by: Ryan Wulff

Second by: Marci Yaremko

Motion passed unan.

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES