

GUIDANCE FOR ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENT

Developing management alternatives is a complex process which may be assisted by following consistent procedures wherever possible. The recommendations below were developed by the Salmon Technical Team (STT), with input from the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) and approved by the Council to help guide the alternative development process. They are suggested guidelines and not inflexible requirements.

1. March Management Alternatives:

- a. To aid alternative assessment, the Council urges pertinent agency and tribal managers to have the Fishery Regulation Assessment Models (FRAMs) ready to run no later than the first day of the March Council meeting.
- b. On the first day of the March meeting, the Council should provide specific guidance for the allowable level of impacts on Oregon coastal natural coho and priorities for the allocation of impacts on critical stocks (e.g., Klamath River fall Chinook, Columbia River natural tule Chinook, Lower Columbia natural coho, etc.). Council staff can modify the alternative tables to ensure these objectives are clearly identified and addressed. Each time the Council reviews the alternatives, it should confirm or amend its guidance on the objectives and priorities.
- c. Generally, Alternative I should include the SAS' priority seasons and management measures. Alternatives II and III are used to show seasons in which one group or the other gets more or less of its priorities, to illustrate the effect of other management measures (e.g., variations in bag limits for recreational fisheries), or to allow for different inside/outside allocations (e.g., alternatives north of Cape Falcon). The final adopted alternatives should meet basic conservation requirements.
- d. SAS representatives should clearly identify their fishery priorities (e.g., bag limits, season duration, etc.) and engage in negotiations as necessary to resolve conflicts among gear groups and areas to arrive at cohesive and coordinated alternatives.
- e. The SAS requests assessments of impacts off California include tables with data for all harvest cells, not just those below Point Arena, California.
- f. Avoid adopting more than three alternatives. The Council should attempt to identify all significant or new management measures that might be considered for final adoption. However, it is not necessary or possible to model each potential alternative. Many variations can simply be noted in the description of the three main alternatives. Additional alternatives or variations may be provided for Council consideration during the public comment period which follows the March Council meeting. This period ends with completion of public comment on the tentative adoption of final management measures during the first day of the April Council meeting.

2. April Meeting:

The Council has indicated that on the last day of the March meeting, it will determine the schedule for final adoption of management measures at the April Council meeting.