

## SACRAMENTO AND KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES - SCOPING

In June 2018, Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) and Klamath River fall Chinook (KRFC) were declared overfished. Under the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP), a rebuilding plan (plan) is required for each of these stocks. In June 2019 (Agenda Item G.1), the Council adopted the [SRFC Rebuilding Plan](#) and the [KRFC Rebuilding Plan](#). The SRFC Rebuilding Plan included recommendations to reconsider the current conservation objective, develop an age-structured stock assessment, develop age-structured forecasts, and develop an age-structured harvest model.

In November 2020, the Council adopted management measures for Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) based on the [Risk Assessment](#) and [Recommendations for Action](#) developed by the ad-hoc SRKW Workgroup (Workgroup). Included in the report was a recommendation to re-evaluate conservation objectives for SRFC and KRFC. The Workgroup acknowledged the pending removal of Klamath River dams and stated revisiting the conservation objective for KRFC would likely not occur until after the dams were removed. The Workgroup also recommended that an age-structured stock assessment be developed for SRFC. Also at the November 2020 meeting, the Council scheduled future consideration of recommendations to re-evaluate conservation objectives for SRFC and KRFC and to develop an age-structured stock assessment for SRFC, when feasible.

In April 2022, a review of the basis behind the Sacramento River Fall Chinook conservation objective was included as a topic for the salmon methodology review conducted in October 2022. This topic was considered a ‘first step’ in the work needed to evaluate the SRFC conservation objective. The [review](#) detailed the origins of the current SRFC conservation objective, which was established in the 1980s using data from the 1950s through the 1980s. The review found that the conservation objective was difficult to reproduce using historical documents and available data.

At the November 2022 Council meeting (Agenda Item D.2) the Salmon Technical Team (STT) [report](#) and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) [report](#) indicated support for elevating and prioritizing work toward developing a new conservation objective for SRFC, given the conservation concerns and importance of this stock to salmon fisheries south of Cape Falcon. The Council agreed with the importance of reviewing the conservation objectives, especially for SRFC. It was noted through Council discussion that the April meeting might be an opportunity to discuss the topic further as the salmon technical and advisory bodies would be in attendance. A precursory look at the topic in terms of process, workload, and timeline seemed appropriate as the next step towards evaluating the conservation objective for SRFC and KRFC.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Prioritize the evaluation of SRFC and KRFC conservation objectives;**
- 2. Consider the appropriate timeframe to begin an evaluation given current workload, staffing, and budget constraints;**
- 3. Discuss potential approaches in coordinating the process (ad-hoc workgroup, etc.).**

Reference Materials:

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

Agenda Order:

- E.5 Identify Issues to be Addressed and Provide Guidance on Process and Timeline Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. Council Guidance and Direction

PFMC  
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