

IMPROVEMENTS TO SOUTHERN OREGON/ NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST COHO OCEAN FISHERY EXPLOITATION RATE FORECASTS

In January 2022, the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) were assigned the task of providing a report to the Council that outlined the amount of work and time needed to explore potential improvements to forecasts of exploitation rates on Southern Oregon/ Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho. The Council assignment was consistent with the recommendation of the Ad Hoc SONCC Coho Workgroup in their [Risk Assessment](#) report provided to the Council in November 2021.

In September 2022, the STT and MEW provided a [report](#) to the Council scoping the workload and timeline estimated to conduct the investigation. The report suggested that the investigation be characterized as a two-part assignment by conducting some initial analysis (part one) and using the results to inform and prioritizing further work (part two). The STT/MEW report provided an estimated timeframe to conduct the analysis and a list of agencies needed to contribute staff time to complete the tasks. The Council discussed the report and expressed interest in pursuing the part one of the investigation as an initial step, but also acknowledged that the STT's workload with other projects was currently high, and the salmon preseason process was about ready to get underway.

The Council agreed to revisit the topic in April when the STT and MEW workload focus is shifting towards salmon methodology review and away from the preseason salmon process. Further Council discussion included the idea of exploring some of the 'part two' tasks earlier or consecutively with 'part one', as some 'part two' tasks appeared to be not so difficult or entail much more work, and the suggestion that some "reorganization of how the series of items is tackled and presented" in the report be discussed within the context of the current and pending workloads of the STT and MEW.

The STT and MEW have re-submitted the same report from September 2022 as Attachment 1 under this agenda item. If the Council decides to pursue the investigation, then the Council should provide the STT/MEW with clear guidance on the order or prioritization of the tasks, along with a timeline for completion. The Council should also confer with the agencies listed under each task prior to making assignments to ensure that proper staffing is available to complete the tasks within the expected timeframe.

Council Task:

- 1. Determine if the Council should instruct the STT and MEW to conduct the analysis outlined in Attachment 1.**
- 2. Identify the specific tasks and order in which they are to be conducted.**
- 3. Confer with the agencies listed under each task to ensure staff is available to contribute to the assignments.**
- 4. Provide a general timeline for completion of the task(s).**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.6, Attachment 1: Scoping Potential Improvements to Forecast Ocean Fishery Exploitation Rates on Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.6 Improvements to Southern Oregon/Northern California Coho
Ocean Fishery Exploitation Rate Forecasts Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Consider Improvements and Provide Guidance on Process and Timeline

PFMC
03/15/23