

KLAMATH DAM REMOVAL UPDATE

The removal of four dams on the Klamath River has been a topic of discussion since at least 2006 when the licenses issued to operate the dams expired. Most recently, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the removal of four dams on the Klamath River which flows from south-central Oregon through northern California to the Pacific Ocean. Dam decommissioning will include reservoir drawdowns and eventual deconstruction which could begin in late 2023 or early 2024. Once the dams are removed, there will be hundreds of miles of accessible habitat for salmon and other species, and habitat restoration planning is underway.

Removal of infrastructure will directly impact fishery monitoring efforts at monitoring stations and will impact fish outmigration and returns. It will be important to understand how this might affect stock assessment and management, as well as sediment transport, water quality, and other issues. This update will help inform the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) of the timeline and process for the dam removal, and spur forward thinking on how the Council may need to adjust to the loss of monitoring stations and anticipate habitat changes that result from dam removal.

Under this Agenda Item, Jim Simondet, the Klamath Branch Supervisor from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), will provide an update to the Council on the status of the Klamath Dam removal project. It is anticipated that as this project progresses, additional updates may be warranted to ensure the Council is kept informed on the status of the dam decommissioning, habitat improvements and any unforeseen issues that may arise. The Council is tentatively scheduled to further consider the issues described above at its November 2023 meeting.

Council Action:

Council discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. *Agenda Item E.9.a.: Supplement NMFS Presentation 1.*
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

E.9 Klamath Dam Removal Update

- a. Status of the Klamath Dam Removal Project
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Council Discussion

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Jim Simondet