

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON SACRAMENTO AND KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES SCOPING

The Habitat Committee (HC) considered the habitat aspects of conservation objectives for Sacramento and Klamath fall Chinook salmon. In both systems, there are grounds for a higher conservation objective associated with full seeding of available spawning and rearing habitat.

In the case of Klamath River fall Chinook, new habitat objectives are clearly needed due to reconnection of spawning and rearing habitat through dam removal. While data on escapement will require multiple years as noted in California Department of Fish and Wildlife's supplemental report (E.5.a, Supplemental [CDFW Report 1](#)) to establish any new objective via a standard stock-recruit analysis, interim objectives could be informed based on analysis of newly-connected spawning habitat.

In the case of Sacramento River fall Chinook, improved conservation objectives could arise from inclusion of the full distribution of spawning and rearing habitat as defined by the essential fish habitat distribution, as well as by analyses like Munsch et al. 2020 that address spawning levels that maximize outmigrations for the entire basin. Both approaches would also better integrate the role of the San Joaquin tributaries to contribute to the fishery and better align multiple fishery management plan policy issues within the Sacramento.

PFMC
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