

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
SCOPING FOR SACRAMENTO AND KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK  
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) supports reviewing and developing updated conservation objectives for both the Sacramento River and the Klamath River. Updates to both these standards are important, and the SAS supports an approach that prioritizes addressing both these systems.

The SAS supports review of the Sacramento conservation objective, which has not been revisited since 1984. The Scientific and Statistical Committee and Salmon Technical Team have recently completed work on the Sacramento supporting reevaluation of the conservation objective which should allow for faster completion with a lighter workload. This also aligns with the recommendation in the Sacramento River Fall Chinook Rebuilding Plan to reconsider the current conservation objective, develop an age-structured stock assessment, develop age-structured forecasts, and develop an age-structured harvest model. While this conservation objective is ready for review, the SAS believes stakeholder input is essential to this process and should not be sacrificed to achieve completion in a more expeditious timeframe. The SAS supports a work group style approach in which we can actively participate.

While the Klamath conservation objective was more recently revisited in 2007 and included more accurate age-based cohort reconstruction, this system is about to undergo significant change with Klamath Dam removal starting this summer/fall in 2023. Analysis and evaluation of the available fish passage and suitable habitat must be analyzed and evaluated to find appropriate escapement goals during this transitional period. The SAS recommends a workgroup be established as soon as possible to navigate this transition of the system for the next 3-6 years.

In summary, the SAS recommends the Council move forward and prioritize both watersheds concurrently. We recommend the Council form work groups as soon as possible and ask that members of the SAS be part of the work groups. The SAS plans to engage with these conservation objectives and participate in this process for both watersheds.