

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
IMPROVEMENTS TO FORECAST OCEAN FISHERY EXPLOITATION RATES ON
SOUTHERN OREGON/NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST COHO

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) was briefed at our April meeting by Mike O'Farrell on the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) report on scoping potential improvements to forecast ocean fishery exploitation rates on Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho. The SAS appreciates the continuing effort to improve the forecast methodologies used to forecast SONCC coho salmon ocean exploitation rates and better inform management decisions.

The SAS supports the stepwise approach outlined in the STT/MEW report which suggests a two-part assignment, with the outcome of part one informing the focus of future work to be done under part two.

The SAS continues to be interested in tasks described in part two of the STT/MEW report, which includes methods to provide a more contemporary picture of coho salmon encounters in non-retention fisheries. While the collection and analysis of Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) samples is challenging and expensive, this appears to be the most informative method available, absent coded wire tagging of hatchery fish, to help determine stock origin and ocean coho salmon stock composition. The SAS also is supportive of improved dockside sampling inquiries to better determine contact rates with coho salmon in the non-retention ocean fisheries.

PFMC
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