

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
KLAMATH DAM REMOVAL UPDATE

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) was briefed at our April meeting by Jim Simondet on the Klamath Dam Removal project. The SAS is encouraged by the progress already made and looks forward to seeing the progress continue and have the Klamath River return to its full potential.

The SAS understands that there will be a period of transition as the river is restored and additional habitat is made available for salmon and other fish and wildlife. The SAS does note that of particular concern are some of the near-term changes which include:

1. Immediate loss of salmon, salmon redds, and habitat when sediment is flushed through the system.
2. Reduced Chinook hatchery production overall, and the pending loss of funding for Fall Creek hatchery operations in eight years.
3. Reduced coded-wire tagged Chinook which are used to estimate harvest, abundance, and fishery impacts.
4. Uncertainty in the Klamath basin recovery could negatively affect harvest opportunities initially.

The long-term changes are expected to be beneficial, with a decrease in disease rates, increased smolt survival and adult salmon returns.

PFMC
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