

SACRAMENTO AND KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES - SCOPING

A review the conservation objectives for Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) and Klamath River fall Chinook (KRFC) was recommended in 2018 when both these stocks were declared ‘overfished’. Since that time, salmon issues beyond the normal preseason process have focused resources on other immediate matters. Since 2019, the Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) has been amended three times and two ad-hoc workgroups were formed; one to address Chinook prey availability for Southern Resident Killer Whales and another to evaluate the harvest control rule for Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho. In addition, work has been done to improve models used to project salmon harvest to ensure fisheries remain within their conservation goals.

At their April 2023 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) was briefed on the SRFC/KRFC conservation objectives ([Agenda Item E.5](#)) and on the Klamath River dam removal project ([Agenda Item E.9](#)). The imminent removal of the dams and a [report](#) from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) spurred Council discussion on how to address the potential need to identify interim management measures for KRFC. In addition, especially given the renewed concern for the SRFC stock, the Council generally concurred that continuing progress on the SRFC conservation objective review appeared equally important. The Council acknowledged that although it would be difficult to address the topics concurrently, there was support for investigating ways to make progress on each topic by potentially following different process steps or timelines. The Council agreed to have Council staff work with CDFW and National Marine Fisheries Service to develop a paper to identify potential processes that could be used to move each topic forward.

Council Task:

- 1. Agree on a process to identify appropriate management measures for KRFC, especially immediately following dam removal.**
- 2. Agree on a process to coordinate review of the management measures for SRFC.**
- 3. Identify an appropriate timeframe for each task as needed, given current workload, staffing, and budget constraints.**

Reference Materials:

1. Attachment 1, Sacramento River Fall Chinook and Klamath River Fall Chinook Conservation Objectives – Scoping Report.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- I.1 Sacramento River Fall Chinook and Klamath River Fall Chinook Conservation Objectives - Scoping Robin Ehlke
 - a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Identify Issues to be Addressed and Provide Guidance on Process and Timeline

PFMC
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