

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON
SACRAMENTO RIVER FALL CHINOOK AND KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES - SCOPING

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) discussed potential processes for developing new conservation objectives for Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) and Klamath River fall Chinook (KRFC) salmon.

At the April 2023 meeting, the STT provided a [report](#) to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) which supported initiating ad hoc workgroup processes to review and potentially update the conservation objectives for both SRFC and KRFC. The STT continues to support the formation of workgroups that include diverse teams of participants with technical and subject matter expertise. The STT has reviewed the draft Terms of Reference documents and found the list of entities identified for participation appeared to be appropriate, and the STT continues to support stakeholder involvement throughout the process.

SRFC - There has been substantial work completed on topics associated with the SRFC conservation objective, some research has been completed since the 2022 Methodology Review and is currently in the publication process; therefore, the full array of available information may not be well-known to the Council and its advisory bodies. A technical workshop where the recent science products could be identified, presented, and discussed, may be a good first step in efforts to develop a new conservation objective. Such a workshop could be held prior to, or as part of, an ad hoc workgroup process. The STT acknowledges that there is a lot of work to be done to address all the issues concerning SRFC management and believes an efficient path forward would be to first conduct a workshop which could help define the scope and tasks of an ad hoc technical workgroup.

KRFC - The STT is also supportive of an ad hoc workgroup to identify interim fishery management objectives for KRFC following dam removal. There is substantial uncertainty in how fish will repopulate the newly-available habitat upstream of the Iron Gate Dam site, and how the habitat below the dam site will be affected. In the near term, fisheries could be designed such that the projected KRFC exploitation rate is lower than the control rule-defined maximum if there was a desire to have increased escapement to the river. The workgroup could then focus on developing and applying an active adaptive management approach that would be informed by data following dam removal. Habitat-based models could also be considered/developed by the workgroup for estimating stock-recruit reference points as data accumulates. A key component of the KRFC workgroup should be to identify the data and monitoring needed for annual assessments and the formation of new management objectives.