

Sacramento River Fall Chinook Ad Hoc Workgroup  
**Draft** Terms of Reference and General Timeline  
*(June 14, 2023)*

## **1. Purpose**

Develop potential improvements to Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) assessment and management for Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council, PFMC) consideration that would:

- a. Evaluate management measures currently in use, which includes:
  - i. Reference points
  - ii. Conservation objective
  - iii. Harvest Control Rule
  - iv. Also, consider the effect of environmental variables on the stability and accuracy of the management measures listed above.
- b. Provide the Council with a work plan/timeline to
  - i. develop alternative management measures as needed, that includes analysis of biological risks and fishery related benefits, and
  - ii. design new, or update existing, abundance forecast methods and harvest models that may incorporate age-structure information, as is done for Klamath River fall Chinook.
- c. Provide the Council with new or updated management measures, abundance forecast methods, and harvest models, as appropriate and supported by the available data.

## **2. Membership**

- a. The Council will establish an Ad Hoc SRFC Work Group (Workgroup, WG).
- b. Membership will include technical representatives from:
  - Pacific Fishery Management Council
  - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR)
  - NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC)
  - NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC)
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
  - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
  - Contractors or additional expertise as deemed necessary or suggested by Workgroup participating entities.
- c. The Workgroup will choose from among its members a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair will act in instances where the Chair is unavailable. The Council will be responsible for administrative and logistical support.

## **3. Milestones**

- a. Collaborate with affected management entities and scientists to collectively identify the issues, data available and gaps, and timeframe needed to complete work associated with the issues identified.

- b. Collect and summarize relevant information regarding the status of SRFC, biological characteristics, magnitude and distribution of fishing mortality, and marine and freshwater environmental indicators.
- c. Based on the results of 3a and 3b, provide a report to the Council that includes an assessment of the suitability of current management measures (reference points, conservation objective, and harvest control rules), recommendations and a workplan/timeline for development of alternatives.
- d. Develop alternative management measures as needed that may include:
  - i. a range of alternative reference points
  - ii. a range of alternative conservation objectives
  - iii. a range of harvest control rules
- e. Analyze the biological risks and fishing-related benefits of alternatives as necessary.
- f. Report to the Council on a workplan/timeline to design new, or update existing, abundance forecast methods and harvest models that may incorporate age data.
- g. Consult with the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Salmon Technical Team (STT) on the analytical methods used to develop and evaluate draft alternatives. The Workgroup may consult with other Council Advisory Bodies (e.g., Salmon Advisory Subpanel) and Technical Committees as necessary or as directed by the Council.

#### **4. General Timeline**

- a. June 2023: Council meeting: presentation of scoping document, draft TOR and general timeline
  - i. Council decides whether to consider a process to review and potentially update SRFC management measures.
  - ii. Council decides whether to consider a process to review and potentially design new abundance forecast methods and harvest models that may incorporate age data.
  - iii. Council initiates workgroup to perform the work.
- b. August 2023: Logistics for initiating a Workgroup:
  - i. Agencies identify staff for Workgroup participation,
  - ii. Invitations are sent to participating parties,
  - iii. *Federal Register* notice of time/location of first workgroup meeting finalized; Workgroup meetings will be open to the public.
- c. September/October 2023: Workgroup Meeting #1
  - i. Workgroup logistics
  - ii. Coordination/outline of tasks,
  - iii. Define/assign specific tasks and products expected with due dates,
  - iv. Preliminary data collection and analysis identified,
  - v. Date/location confirmed for next meeting, *Federal Register* notice of time/location (Council staff).
- d. Additional Workgroup meetings will likely be held in 2023, through 2024, and potentially into 2025.