

PACIFIC SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 24
SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALE
CHINOOK THRESHOLD CLARIFICATIONS

An administrative amendment to the Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan ([FMP](#)) is under consideration for Section 6.6.8 - Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Management Measures. The purpose of the amendment is to clarify the technical process for reviewing updates to the models used to determine the Chinook abundance threshold and reporting to the Council any resulting change in the threshold. There are no proposed changes to methodology or analysis. Other minor administrative or clerical edits may also be included in the amendment language, as needed.

Background

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted management measures for SRKW in November 2020 under FMP Amendment 21. A key component of the management measures is a Chinook abundance threshold (threshold) that is used as a trigger to implement additional management actions if the projected Chinook abundance is below the threshold. The threshold is calculated using two models that are periodically updated. The Council recognized that the numerical value of the threshold would need to be recalculated when the models were updated. To accommodate this, the Council included a description of the technical process to review the model updates and report any resulting change in the numerical value of the threshold for Council consideration.

In April 2022 consistent with the FMP, the Council asked the Salmon Technical Team and Scientific and Statistical Committee to conduct a technical review of new data used to update the models; however, as the review was underway, it became apparent that the language describing the process, roles and responsibilities within that process, and the appropriate depth of review was unclear. In November 2022, when the Council adopted a revised threshold value to account for model updates, the Council also asked National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Council staff to evaluate the FMP description of the process for the technical review and suggest clarifying language to improve the process for potential FMP amendment. NMFS and Council staff have drafted proposed changes to Section 6.6.8 which are provided in Attachment 1.

If the Council decides to adopt changes to the FMP, then it would also be an opportune time to consider additional administrative edits to the FMP, as needed.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt for public review draft language for FMP Amendment 24 that applies to Section 6.6.8 – Southern Resident Killer Whale Management Measures.**
- 2. Provide guidance for administrative edits as needed.**

Reference Materials:

1. Attachment 1: Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan Amendment 24: Proposed revision to Section 6.6.8.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- C.3 Fishery Management Plan Amendment 24: Southern Resident Killer
Whale Chinook Threshold Clarifications Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Revised FMP Language for Public Review

PFMC
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