

CALIFORNIA COASTAL CHINOOK SALMON

Conservation Objective, Management Framework,
and Reinitiated Biological Opinion

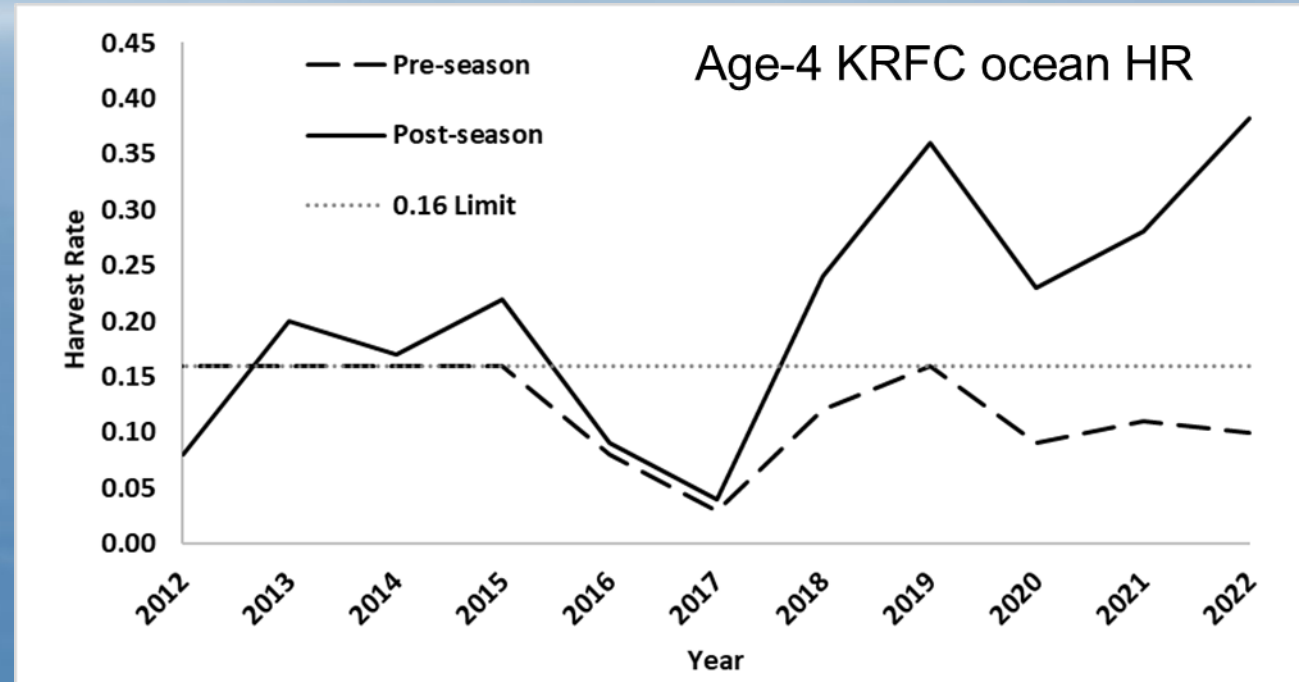
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CC CHINOOK BACKGROUND

- California Coastal (CC) Chinook Salmon: ESA Listed: Threatened 1999
- Biological Opinions: 2000, 2005, 2023
- CC Chinook Salmon Conservation Objective
 - Indicator stock: Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC)
 - Metric: Ocean Harvest Rate (HR) of Age-4 KRFC
 - Limit: $\leq 16\%$
- NMFS reinitiated in March 2023

NEED FOR A MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

- Age-4 ocean HR of KRFC
 - Exceeding pre-season projection
 - Exceeding 16% limit
- Driver: Higher than expected contact rates in the commercial troll fishery
- Previous actions have fallen short
 - KOHM updates: 2021 and 2022
 - Buffer applied to projection in 2022
- 2022 HR was 38%



FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT

- Framework to Achieve the Conservation Objective for California Coastal Chinook Salmon
 - Developed by CDFW and NMFS
 - Employs existing management tools for the commercial fishery
 - Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP)
 - Utilized in Council managed fisheries (i.e., OR, WA, CA KMZ)
 - Introduced in CDFW supplemental reports: Nov 2022 and April 2023
 - Also benefits other stocks of salmon in California
- CC Chinook Objective unchanged: 16% age-4 KRFC ocean HR

CC CHINOOK FRAMEWORK

- Pre-season
 - Model season structure using KOHM and SHM to ensure compliance with management and conservation objectives
 - All-stock harvest projection will serve as a harvest limit
 - Forecasted effort will inform development of weekly trip limits
 - Defined periods for the trip limit will be established (e.g., Thurs-Mon landing week)
 - Catch triggers will be established to identify when in-season action is needed
- In-season
 - Realized effort and percent attainment of the harvest limit will guide any inseason changes to either close the fishery or reduce the weekly trip limit
 - 24 hour catch reporting requirements
- Proposed framework is described in NMFS supplemental report D.4a

FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

- PFMC will consider the framework in November 2023
- If PFMC adopts framework:
 - NMFS will analyze effects of the framework along with the CC Chinook conservation objective
 - NMFS will incorporate elements of the adopted framework into the guidance letter
 - CDFW will draft guidance for management measures consistent with the framework requirements before the March 2024 Council meeting.
 - Draft guidance and management measures provided to advisory bodies for consideration and discussion
 - Performance of framework will be assessed and incorporated into management each year

NMFS BIOLOGICAL OPINION

- In Process: Awaiting proposed action in order to finalize analysis
- Proposed Action:
 - Implementation of the FMP
 - CC Chinook Conservation Objective
 - Framework to Achieve the Conservation Objective for California Coastal Chinook Salmon
- Target date for completion: Mid-February 2024

QUESTIONS?

