

KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK WORKGROUP
PROGRESS REPORT

The Ad-Hoc Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC) Workgroup (Workgroup) held their first meeting on Thursday October 26, 2023. The Workgroup elected a Chair and Vice Chair (Dr. Michael O'Farrell and Mr. Brett Kormos, respectively), reviewed the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) document, and heard presentations on tribal perspectives, KRFC stock status and management framework, and current fishery structures. The agenda and meeting material are provided on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's [webpage](#) for this meeting.

The Workgroup reviewed the TOR adopted by the Council in June 2023. There was general agreement that the Purpose and Milestones identified for the Workgroup were appropriate and will serve as a guide moving forward. No changes are recommended. The Workgroup discussed the need for the Council to ensure close collaboration and coordination between the tribes and partner agencies, including the National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Regional Office (NMFS-WCR) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), who are not represented on the Workgroup. For the former, the Workgroup discussed that having NMFS-WCR staff attend Workgroup sessions on a regular basis would be beneficial to ensure policy and/or legal implications are communicated directly to the Workgroup and that the TOR adopted by the Council explicitly calls for a representative for this reason. For the latter, it was emphasized that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) representative on the Workgroup would need to communicate regularly with BOR because of the important, multi-faceted role they have in the Klamath Basin. It should be noted that the USFWS representative currently on the Workgroup has changed jobs and a replacement will need to be found to serve on the Workgroup.

Substantial discussion was had regarding the current fishery management framework for KRFC, and descriptions of fisheries were provided by the Hoopa Valley Tribe, Yurok Tribe, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and NMFS. This discussion led into a discussion about the development of recommendations to inform Council decisions on 2024 fisheries. Various perspectives were expressed about how much of the newly available habitat (approximately 400 miles) would be repopulated in the near term. In developing information for 2024 fisheries, it was noted that the Workgroup should explicitly consider whether precautionary adjustments to the current HCR are warranted and, if yes, what a more conservative approach should entail. It was also suggested that the Workgroup should include consideration of basin-wide impacts (e.g., accounting for dam removal effects on both the Klamath River and Trinity River) because of the likelihood that dam removal on the upper Klamath River will have broader impacts in the region. Finally, the Workgroup stated its intention to focus primarily on the issue of 2024 fishery management at upcoming meetings.

In addition to near-term focus on 2024 fisheries, the Workgroup discussed focus areas for the longer term. These included the critical need to maintain and expand monitoring post-dam removal because this information will be critical to inform management in 2025 and beyond; and the consideration and development of technical information and analyses to support fisheries into the future, which could include changes to the current HCR and amendments to the FMP.

The Workgroup is scheduled to meet again on November 20, 2023. Additional meetings for the immediate future could occur in December and/or January as the Workgroup develops recommendations for 2024 ocean salmon fisheries.

PFMC
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