

KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK WORKGROUP REPORT AND  
2024 MANAGEMENT OPTIONS – FINAL GUIDANCE

At their June 2023 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council or PFMC) formed the ad-hoc Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup (Workgroup or KRWG). One of the main purposes of the Workgroup is to provide technical data for Council consideration that would assist the Council with developing interim management measures, or a management framework, that would benefit Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC) as they respond to changing conditions due to the removal of Klamath River Dams. The Workgroup was provided Council guidance through a draft [‘Terms of Reference and General Timeline’](#) (TOR) that has helped the Workgroup focus their tasks. The TOR is provided as Attachment 1 for reference.

The first task the Workgroup has addressed was described in the TOR under ‘Milestones’ (Item 3.g) that essentially asked the Workgroup to provide data and material to inform Council decision making during the 2024 preseason salmon process.

Given the high amount of work and the short amount of time, the Workgroup opted to submit two reports for this agenda item; the first is a progress report which was submitted for the advanced briefing book, and the second is a full report submitted for the supplemental briefing book. This two-step approach was intended to provide as much information to the Council and public as possible, while allowing the Workgroup to develop the more detailed report in time for this March Council meeting.

The salmon preseason process essentially begins at the March Council meeting, and it is anticipated that the Council will adopt for public review three Alternatives for the 2024 salmon season. As the alternatives are being developed, the management measures for all salmon stocks are part of the analysis when determining if the conservation objectives and other requirements are being met; in this way the management measures act as a gauge for the suitability for the alternatives under consideration. For this reason, it would be prudent for the Council to determine what the appropriate management measures will be for KRFC in 2024 at the March Council meeting, rather than delaying a decision until the April Council meeting.

It may also be worthwhile for the Council to discuss if any changes adopted for 2024 would remain in place through 2025 unless changed. This could be an efficient approach that allows for change if needed but would not require the Workgroup to repeat this process and would allow the Workgroup to focus on more long-term interim measures rather than having to provide options on an annual basis.

Lastly, the Council may want to discuss the status of the TOR. The document was approved in June as a draft to allow the Workgroup the opportunity to review the document at their initial meeting. The Workgroup has reviewed the document; the Council may want to discuss any potential changes with the Workgroup and approve the document as final if deemed appropriate.

**Council Action:**

1. **Consider adopting an alternative harvest control rule for Klamath River Fall Chinook for implementation in 2024, and potentially through 2025.**
2. **Discuss the ‘Terms of Reference’ document for the Workgroup, consider any improvements, and approve as final, as appropriate.**
3. **Provide additional guidance and direction to the Workgroup, as needed.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1: Klamath River Fall Chinook Ad Hoc Workgroup Draft Terms of Reference and General Timeline.
2. Agenda Item C.4.a, Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup Progress Report 1.
3. *Agenda Item C.4.a, Supplemental Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup Report 2.*
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

**Agenda Order:**

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| C.4 Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup Report and<br>2024 Management Options – Final Guidance            | Robin Ehlke       |
| a. Workgroup Report  | Michael O’Farrell |
| b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies   |                   |
| c. Public Comment  |                   |
| d. <b>Council Action:</b> Discuss the Workgroup Report and Adopt a Management Option for<br>2024 Fisheries |                   |

PFMC  
02/06/24