

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

*Note: this document was first provided at the June 2023 Council meeting, ([Agenda Item I.1, supplemental Attachment 2](#))*

**1. Purpose**

Develop proposed technical aspects for Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC) for Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council, PFMC) consideration that would:

- a. assist the Council with developing interim management measures, or a management framework, intended to address the response of KRFC to the dynamic nature of the Klamath River environment and the available habitat immediately following dam removal, and post dam removal until the natural environment is stabilized and the salmon population is more predictable.
  - Interim management measures may include, or incorporate, interim spawner escapement objectives and/or modifications to design or application of the KRFC Harvest Control Rule (HCR) or KOHM as these management tools relate to expansion of the available spawning habitat,
  - Identify the extent to which interim measures and modifications to the HCR could occur under the existing provisions of the FMP.
- b. allow fishing on abundant salmon stocks while not impeding the rebuilding of KRFC from overfished status,
- c. promote as best as possible a sustainable abundance of KRFC as it responds to the freshwater environment post dam removal,
- d. advise the Council on the implications to fisheries and fishery management tools from changes to production and coded-wire-tagging programs associated with dam removal,
- e. advise the Council on data needs following dam removal,
- f. design new, or update existing abundance forecast methods and harvest models to account for the capacity of the modified habitat and availability of new or lost data inputs, as appropriate.

## **2. Membership**

- a. The Council will establish an Ad Hoc KRFC Work Group (Workgroup, WG).
- b. Membership will include technical representatives from:
  - Pacific Fishery Management Council
  - NMFS West Coast Region (WCR)
  - NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC)
  - NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC)
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Yurok Tribe
  - Hoopa Valley Tribe
  - 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. Collect and summarize relevant information regarding the status of KRFC, biological characteristics, magnitude and distribution of fishing mortality, and marine and freshwater environmental indicators.
- b. Summarize the implications to fisheries and fishery management tools from changes to production and coded-wire-tagging programs associated with dam removal.
- c. Update or develop new models, as necessary, to account for change in habitat, production, and data available.
- d. Develop options for alternative management measures or a management framework that includes:
  - i. a range of alternative conservation objectives, as appropriate,
  - ii. a range of harvest control rules, as necessary.
  - iii. identify which options could be implemented under the current provisions of the FMP or a sequential implementation of alternatives as the system becomes more certain and data become less variable.
- e. Analyze the biological risks and fishing related benefits of the alternatives.
- f. Consult with the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Salmon Technical Team (STT) on the analytical methods used to evaluate draft alternatives. The Workgroup may consult with other Council Advisory Bodies and Technical Committees as necessary or as directed by the Council.
- g. Provide sufficient data and material needed to inform Council decision making during the 2024 preseason salmon process, as best as possible.
- h. Continue work and analysis as needed -through at least 2024 - to refine the data and the application as more information becomes available.

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

- a. June 2023 Council meeting: presentation of draft TORs and timeline
  - Council decides whether to consider a process to review and potentially update KRFC management measures and initiate workgroup to perform the work.
- b. July 2023 Logistics for initiating a Workgroup:
  - Agencies identify staff for Workgroup participation,
  - invitations sent to participating parties,
  - FR notice of time/location of first workgroup meeting finalized; Workgroup meetings will be open to public.
- c. August 2023: Workgroup Meeting #1
  - Workgroup logistics
  - coordination/outline of tasks,
  - define/assign specific tasks and products expected with due date,
  - precursory data collection and analysis identified,
  - date/location confirmed for next meeting, FR notice of time/location (Council staff).
- d. Additional Workgroup meetings will likely be held in 2023, through 2024, and potentially into 2025.

PFMC  
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