

THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) provides this report on issues relevant to ocean salmon harvest management.

Stock Status Determinations

NMFS West Coast Region recently informed the Council (see letter to Executive Director Merrick Burden in briefing book under this agenda item) that the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Queets natural coho salmon stocks are rebuilt consistent with the criteria under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The most recent three-year geometric mean of the spawning escapement reported for both stocks (2020-2022) exceeds the stocks' spawning escapement required to achieve Smsy (SJF coho = 14,461 vs Smsy of 11,000 spawners; Queets coho = 6,624 vs Smsy of 5,800 spawners). NMFS will propose to remove the rebuilding plans for both stocks from regulation, as they are rebuilt and are no longer required to be managed under rebuilding plans. We anticipate the proposed rule to remove the rebuilding plans should publish in the Federal Register in advance of the 2025 salmon season. The proposed rule will have a 30-day public comment period.

Of the original five stocks declared overfished in 2018, NMFS determined that four of the stocks are now rebuilt. The Klamath River Fall Chinook stock continues to be managed under its rebuilding plan until the stock is rebuilt. In 2024, NMFS determined that the Queets spring/summer Chinook stock was overfished and a rebuilding plan is under development (Agenda Item E.3)

California Coastal (CC) Chinook Regulatory Framework

In November 2023, the Council adopted a framework of management measures for the ocean salmon fisheries off the coast of California and recommended it to NMFS for implementation in regulation. The management framework specifies management measures designed to ensure that the fishery does not exceed the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan (Salmon FMP) conservation objective for CC Chinook salmon including landing and possession limits, an overall allowable harvest level, and inseason management consistent with the provisions of the Salmon FMP. NMFS issued a proposed and final rule to codify the framework as a regulatory amendment to the salmon regulations under 50 CFR 660. The final rule was issued August 14, 2024 ([89 FR 66011](#)) and is effective on September 13, 2024.