QUEETS SPRING/SUMMER CHINOOK REBUILDING PLAN - RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES AND PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Queets River natural spring/summer Chinook were declared overfished in November 2023 (November 2023 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Meeting, <u>Agenda Item D.1.a</u>, <u>Supplemental NMFS Report</u>). Under the Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP), a rebuilding plan is required when a stock is declared overfished. The FMP requires a plan be proposed by the Salmon Technical Team (STT) for Council consideration within one year and be implemented by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) within two years. NMFS has stated that the Council should submit rebuilding plans for approval by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce within 15 months of the overfished declaration.

The STT has worked collaboratively with tribal, state, and Federal entities to develop the rebuilding plan. Work began in January 2024 and the STT provided their first progress report at the June 2024 Council Meeting (Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental STT Report 1). Since then, the STT and collaborators have further developed the draft rebuilding plan analysis which now includes a review of factors leading to the overfished status, a range of alternatives, and recommendations for action.

Under this agenda item, the Council should review the draft rebuilding plan and adopt a preliminary preferred alternative for public review. The Council is slated to adopt a final rebuilding plan for recommendation to NMFS at the November 2024 Council meeting. Prior to implementation, the plan will go through the Federal notice and comment rule-making process.

Council Action:

Review and Comment on Draft Rebuilding Plan Analysis and Adopt a Range of Alternatives and/or a Preliminary Preferred Alternative for Public Review, as appropriate.

Reference Materials:

- 1. Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 1: Preliminary Draft Rebuilding Plan Analysis for Queets River Spring/summer Chinook (*Electronic Only*).
- 2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see e-portal).

Agenda Order:

- E.3 Queets River Spring/Summer Chinook Rebuilding Plan Progress Report Angela Forristall
 - a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. Council Action: Adopt a Range of Rebuilding Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative