

SACRAMENTO RIVER FALL CHINOOK WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2018, Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) was declared ‘overfished’ and a rebuilding plan was subsequently adopted in June 2019. The plan included recommendations to reconsider the current conservation objective, develop an age-structured stock assessment, develop age-structured forecasts, and develop an age-structured harvest model. In April 2022, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) approved a review of the basis behind the SRFC conservation objective as a salmon methodology review topic. The results of the review was provided at the November 2022 Council meeting ([Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 1](#)). At their April 2023 meeting, the Council discussed the topic further and agreed that taking a detailed look at information that is currently used, reviewing any new material available, and identifying data gaps is the next logical step forward in evaluating the conservation objective for SRFC.

At their June 2023 meeting, the Council formed an ad-hoc Sacramento River Fall Chinook Workgroup (SRWG or Workgroup), and approved a draft Terms of Reference (Agenda Item I.1, [Supplemental Attachment 3](#)). In June 2024, the SRWG provided the Council with a report (Agenda Item E.1.a, Workgroup Report 1) and the Council provided guidance to focus future work so that Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) serves as the basis of salmon fishery management, and not Maximum Sustainable Production; and to evaluate the draft cohort reconstruction for SRFC and determine if it will provide substantial improvement and accuracy over current forecasting and modeling methodologies.

At the September 2024 meeting, the Workgroup provided a [statement](#) under Agenda Item E.2, Methodology Review – Final Topic Selection and proposed three topics for Council consideration. Two of these items were approved by the Council for review in 2024. The third item was not scheduled for review in 2024, and several Council members and others faced difficulties in accessing supporting material for this third item (Uncertainty metrics and buffering approaches for SRFC forecasts). At the request of the Workgroup, Council staff included that material under this agenda item as Attachment 1. The results of the 2024 Salmon Methodology Review will be presented at the November meeting under Agenda Item F.2.

Under this agenda item, the Workgroup will provide an update to the Council on progress relating to the guidance provided in June 2024. The Council should review the Workgroup report, provide guidance as needed, and address any Workgroup recommendations or concerns. The Council is currently scheduled to receive their next report and recommendations from the SRWG in June 2025.

Council Action:

Consider the Workgroup report and provide guidance as needed.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.6, Attachment 1: Methods for assessing and responding to bias and uncertainty in U.S. West Coast salmon abundance forecasts _ Satterthwaite and Shelton, 2023 **(Electronic Only)**.
2. Agenda Item F.6.a, Sacramento River Fall Chinook Ad-hoc Workgroup Report 1.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

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| F.6 Sacramento River Fall Chinook Workgroup Progress Report and Recommendations | Angela Forristall |
| a. Workgroup Progress Report | Will Satterthwaite |
| b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| c. Public Comment | |
| d. Council Action: Consider Workgroup Report and Adopt Recommendations, As Appropriate | |

PFMC
10/21/24