SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) discussed the Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup (KRWG) progress report (Agenda Item F.5.a) and offers the following additional considerations for each management options presented in the KRWG progress report:

1. Current Harvest Control Rule with a Range of Buffers

   The STT agrees with the KRWG that applying a buffer to the current harvest control rule is the only option ready for implementation for the 2025 preseason process. The STT implemented this approach in the 2024 preseason planning and is prepared to include it again in 2025 if directed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to do so.

2. Sub-Basin Management Approach

   The STT discussed the concept of developing separate stock reconstructions for Klamath and Trinity basins. By implementing a sub-basin management approach, interim conservation objectives could be focused on the fall Chinook escaping to the upper regions of the Klamath basin without impeding harvest opportunity in the Trinity basin. The STT notes that splitting the stock aggregate into two smaller components will likely increase the uncertainty of model parameters and hence management objectives. To implement a sub-basin approach into management, the STT would need to develop two independent harvest models to aid in fishery planning, which would take significant time and resources to complete and go through the Council's salmon methodology review process. We also note that implementing a sub-basin approach would require the development of separate harvest control rules and would require considerable effort from outside agencies.

3. Habitat-based Management Approach

   The STT sees merit in a habitat-based approach but neither the STT nor the KRWG has the expertise needed to develop such an approach. We encourage the Council to seek funding opportunities or other external resources to conduct this type of work in the future.

4. Matrix-based Approach

   The STT agrees that further development of the matrix-based approach is warranted, as this type of tool could help inform management of Klamath River fall Chinook while the habitat and populations stabilize post dam removal. The Workgroup has the expertise needed to develop this tool, and once developed, this tool would likely not require further input from the KRWG if the annual data needed to inform the final matrix parameters are available on the required timeline.

PFMC
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