

IDENTIFY MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRELIMINARY 2026 MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Using the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) management recommendations as a basis (*Agenda Item C.3.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1*), the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) should identify the range of management elements in the alternatives for public review (harvest ranges, special restrictions, and proposed season structure). The Salmon Technical Team (STT) will collate the Council's identified management elements into coordinated coastwide alternatives and provide them to the Council for review. Additional direction from the Council may be necessary as the management alternatives are developed. The STT will provide adjusted management alternatives based on Council guidance as this meeting progresses. It is anticipated that the Council will adopt, for public review, coastwide management alternatives prior to the conclusion of the March 2026 Council meeting. Attachment 1 under this agenda item provides guidance for developing and assessing alternatives.

Any alternative considered for adoption that deviates from the objectives in the Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) will require implementation by emergency rule. If an emergency rule appears to be necessary, the Council must clearly identify and justify the need for such an action consistent with emergency criteria established by the Council (Attachment 2) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (Attachment 3).

The timing of the March and April Council meetings makes it impracticable for the Council to recommend fishing seasons that begin before mid-May of the same year. Therefore, early-season fisheries for 2026 (those scheduled to occur prior to May 16) were established in 2025 and are listed in Attachment 4. NMFS may take inseason action, as needed, to adjust commercial and recreational seasons occurring prior to May 16, 2026. The Council may also consider recommendations for inseason actions to modify fisheries scheduled to open before May 16, 2026, because impacts accrued in these fisheries may affect opportunities in the summer 2026 fisheries.

Before defining the alternatives, the Council should be briefed on any pertinent management constraints resulting from action by the Pacific Salmon Commission, action by the California Fish and Game Commission to set the allocation of Klamath River fall Chinook or Sacramento River fall Chinook for the inside recreational fisheries, and NMFS constraints for stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Council Tasks:

- 1. Using the SAS proposals and other agency and public input, define basic management elements and alternatives for STT collation into coastwide management alternatives.**
- 2. Consider the need for inseason action to address salmon fisheries opening prior to May 16, 2026.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1: Guidance for Alternative Development and Assessment.
2. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 2: Emergency Changes to the Salmon FMP.
3. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 3: [62 FR 44421](#) (Document Number 97-22094): Policy Guidelines for the Use of Emergency Rules.
4. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 4: 2026 Salmon Fisheries Scheduled to Occur Prior to May 16, 2026.
5. *Agenda Item C.3.e, Supplemental SAS Report 1: SAS Proposed Initial Salmon Management Alternatives for 2026 Non-Indian Ocean Fisheries.*
6. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- C.3 Identify Management Objectives and Preliminary Definition of 2026 Management Alternatives
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| a. Report of the Pacific Salmon Commission Chair | Angela Forristall |
| b. NMFS Recommendations | Phil Anderson |
| c. Tribal Recommendations | Susan Bishop |
| d. State Agencies Recommendations | David Sones |
| e. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | K. Adicks, J. North, M. Yaremko |
| f. Public Comment | |
| g. Council Action: Adopt Council Recommendations for Initial Management Measure Alternatives for Salmon Technical Team Collation and Consider Inseason Adjustments to Fisheries Prior to May 16, 2026 | |

PFMC
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