

KLAMATH RIVER DAM REMOVAL AND BASIN UPDATE

In 2024, four dams on the mainstem Klamath River were removed as part of the largest dam removal and river restoration project in U.S. history. Efforts associated with dam removal included reservoir drawdown, dam demolition, sediment evacuation, and habitat restoration and revegetation. The project is expected to improve long-term access to historical salmon habitat and support recovery of native fish populations, while also presenting near-term uncertainties for salmon production and habitat conditions. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) received updates from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) prior to and during dam removal in [April 2023](#) and [March 2024](#).

In recognition that dam removal activities would likely result in unpredictable short-term impacts on Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC), a stock currently classified as overfished, the Council established the ad hoc Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup (KRWG) in June 2023. The KRWG's tasks included evaluating available information and providing recommendations on interim management approaches, as appropriate, while the population responds to changing environmental and biological conditions. The KRWG provided updates to the Council in [November 2023](#), [March 2024](#), [November 2024](#), and [November 2025](#). Based on the KRWG's findings and recommendations, the Council has, in recent years, considered applying a precautionary buffer to the maximum allowable exploitation rate for KRFC to provide additional conservation protection when warranted.

Following the KRWG's November 2025 report, the Council expressed interest in receiving periodic updates on Klamath Basin restoration and salmon recovery efforts, including any implications for fisheries management arising from changes to hatchery production, coded-wire-tag programs, and other monitoring activities associated with dam removal.

Under this agenda item, Dan Wilson, California Coastal Office Klamath & Operations Branch Chief with NMFS, will provide the Council with an update on the status of Klamath River restoration efforts following dam removal.

Council Tasks:

Discuss the update on the Klamath River basin, as appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- G.2 Klamath River Dam Removal and Basin Update
 - a. Status of the Klamath Dam Removal Project
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities

Angela Forristall
Dan Wilson

- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Discussion and Comment, as Appropriate

PFMC
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