Agenda Item C.4
Attachment 1
June 2026

REVISED SACRAMENTO RIVER FALL CHINOOK WORKGROUP
TERMS OF REFERENCE

At the April 2026 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, the Council directed staff to revise the Sacramento River fall Chinook Workgroup (SRWG) Terms of Reference (TOR) to include participation in the Sacramento River fall Chinook Revised S_{MSY} Peer Review Meeting scheduled for the summer of 2026 as a part of the SRWG's responsibilities (see April 2026 Decision Summary Document). The revised SRWG TOR are provided to the Council in this attachment, with the updates provided in strikethrough/underline beginning on page 2, and the clean TOR beginning on page 5. An explanation for the modifications is provided below:

Under **1. Purpose**, the TOR have been updated to clarify that the SRWG will participate in peer review evaluations of its work. The revisions include reference to Council Operating Procedure 15, reflecting the SRWG's prior use of the Salmon Methodology Review process. The updated language also includes adherence to peer review TORs. The SRWG will be expected to comply with the upcoming SRFC S_{MSY} Peer Review meeting TOR adopted by the Council at their April meeting. In addition, the SRWG TOR now states that SRWG members are expected to participate in person to the extent possible, while allowing for remote participation when approved, particularly in cases where state or federal participants are unable to obtain travel approval.

Under **2. Membership**, the revised TORs add that "membership will include, to the extent feasible, technical representation from" the entities identified in the document. This revision is in recognition that the current SRWG does not include representatives from all listed entities, while acknowledging that the group has continued its work despite those representation gaps.

Under **3. Milestones**, two items have been removed from the TOR in recognition that the Council intends to assign those tasks, previously delegated to the SRWG, to the entity responsible for developing the Sacramento River fall Chinook Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendment. A discussion on the FMP analytical team format is currently tentatively scheduled for the Council's November 2026 meeting (see Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1).

Under **4. General Timeline**, the TOR now includes participation in the 2026 peer review process, as well as any additional work assigned by the Council following that review, either in response to peer review findings or in support of the FMP amendment process.

Sacramento River Fall Chinook Ad Hoc Workgroup
~~**Draft**~~ Terms of Reference and General Timeline
(June ~~14~~, ~~2023~~2026)

1. Purpose

Develop potential improvements to Sacramento River Fall Chinook (SRFC) assessment and management for Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council, PFMC) consideration that would:

a. Evaluate management measures currently in use, which includes:
   i. Reference points
   ii. Conservation objective
   iii. Harvest Control Rule
   iv. Also, consider the effect of environmental variables on the stability and accuracy of the management measures listed above.
b. Provide the Council with a work plan/timeline to
   i. develop alternative management measures as needed, that includes analysis of biological risks and fishery related benefits,
   ii. design new, or update existing, abundance forecast methods and harvest models that may incorporate age-structure information, as is done for Klamath River Fall Chinook.
c. Provide the Council with new or updated management measures, abundance forecast methods, and harvest models, as appropriate and supported by the available data.
~~c.~~d. Present and participate in peer review evaluations of SRWG work and analyses in accordance with the applicable Council Operating Procedures (e.g., COP 15: Salmon Methodology Reviews) and/or peer review Terms of Reference. When reviews are conducted in person, participants are expected to attend in person whenever possible. Remote participation will be approved if travel has not been authorized by the participant's organization and may be approved under other extenuating circumstances.

2. Membership

a. The Council will establish an Ad Hoc SRFC Work Group (Workgroup, WG).
b. Membership will include, to the extent feasible, technical representatives from:
   - Pacific Fishery Management Council
   - NMFS West Coast Region (WCR)
   - NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC)
   - NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC)
   - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
   - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
   - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
   - Contractors or additional expertise as deemed necessary or suggested by Workgroup participating entities.
c. The Workgroup will choose from among its members a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair will act in instances where the Chair is unavailable. The Council will be responsible for administrative and logistical support.

3. Milestones

a. Collaborate with affected management entities and scientists to collectively identify the issues, data available and gaps, and timeframe needed to complete work associated with the issues identified.
b. Collect and summarize relevant information regarding the status of SRFC, biological characteristics, magnitude and distribution of fishing mortality, and marine and freshwater environmental indicators.
c. Based on the results of 3a and 3b, provide a report to the Council that includes an assessment of the suitability of current management measures (reference points, conservation objective, and harvest control rules), recommendations and a workplan/timeline for development of alternatives.
d. ~~Develop~~ Report to the Council on potential alternative management measures as needed that may include:
    i. a range of alternative reference points
    ii. a range of alternative conservation objectives,
    iii. a range of harvest control rules.
~~e. Analyze the biological risks and fishing related benefits of alternatives as necessary.~~
~~f. Report to the Council on a workplan/timeline to design new, or update existing, abundance forecast methods and harvest models that may incorporate age data.~~
e. Consult with the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Salmon Technical Team (STT) on the analytical methods used to develop and evaluate draft alternatives. The Workgroup may consult with other Council Advisory Bodies (e.g., Salmon Advisory Subpanel) and Technical Committees as necessary or as directed by the Council.
~~g.~~f. Present and participate in peer reviews of work and analysis developed by the SRWG.

4. General Timeline

a. June 2023: Council meeting: presentation of scoping document, draft TOR and general timeline
    i. Council decides whether to consider a process to review and potentially update SRFC management measures.
    ii. Council decides whether to consider a process to review and potentially design new abundance forecast methods and harvest models that may incorporate age data.
    iii. Council initiates workgroup to perform the work.
b. August 2023: Logistics for initiating a Workgroup:
    i. Agencies identify staff for Workgroup participation,
    ii. Invitations are sent to participating parties,
    iii. FR notice of time/location of first workgroup meeting finalized; Workgroup meetings will be open to the public.
c. September/October 2023: Workgroup Meeting #1
    i. Workgroup logistics
    ii. Coordination/outline of tasks,
    iii. Define/assign specific tasks and products expected with due dates,
    iv. Preliminary data collection and analysis identified,
    v. Date/location confirmed for next meeting, FR notice of time/location (Council staff).
d. Additional Workgroup meetings will likely be held in 2023, through 2024, and potentially into 2025.
e. Summer 2026: Peer Review Participation
    i. Participate in the Peer Review of Revised Sacramento River Fall Chinook S_{MSY}, as described in the TOR for that process.
~~d.~~f. 2027 and beyond

i. Complete any follow-up tasking requested by the Council related to the outcomes of the 2026 SRFC S_{MSY} peer review.

~~i.~~ii. Support the subsequent work of the SRFC fishery management plan amendment group, as appropriate and directed by the Council.

Sacramento River Fall Chinook Ad Hoc Workgroup
Terms of Reference and General Timeline
(June 2026)

1. Purpose

Develop potential improvements to Sacramento River Fall Chinook (SRFC) assessment and management for Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council, PFMC) consideration that would:

a. Evaluate management measures currently in use, which includes:

   v. Reference points
   vi. Conservation objective
   vii. Harvest Control Rule
   viii. Also, consider the effect of environmental variables on the stability and accuracy of the management measures listed above.

b. Provide the Council with a work plan/timeline to
   i. develop alternative management measures as needed, that includes analysis of biological risks and fishery related benefits,
   ii. design new, or update existing, abundance forecast methods and harvest models that may incorporate age-structure information, as is done for Klamath River Fall Chinook.

c. Provide the Council with new or updated management measures, abundance forecast methods, and harvest models, as appropriate and supported by the available data.

d. Present and participate in peer review evaluations of SRWG work and analyses in accordance with the applicable Council Operating Procedures (e.g., COP 15: Salmon Methodology Reviews) and/or peer review Terms of Reference. When reviews are conducted in person, participants are expected to attend in person whenever possible. Remote participation will be approved if travel has not been authorized by the participant's organization and may be approved under other extenuating circumstances.

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c. The Workgroup will choose from among its members a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair will act in instances where the Chair is unavailable. The Council will be responsible for administrative and logistical support.

3. Milestones

a. Collaborate with affected management entities and scientists to collectively identify the issues, data available and gaps, and timeframe needed to complete work associated with the issues identified.
b. Collect and summarize relevant information regarding the status of SRFC, biological characteristics, magnitude and distribution of fishing mortality, and marine and freshwater environmental indicators.
c. Based on the results of 3a and 3b, provide a report to the Council that includes an assessment of the suitability of current management measures (reference points, conservation objective, and harvest control rules), recommendations and a workplan/timeline for development of alternatives.
d. Report to the Council on potential alternative management measures as needed that may include:
    i. a range of alternative reference points
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f. Present and participate in peer reviews of work and analysis developed by the SRWG.

4. General Timeline

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    iv. Council decides whether to consider a process to review and potentially update SRFC management measures.
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f. 2027 and beyond
    i. Complete any follow-up tasking requested by the Council related to the outcomes of the 2026 SRFC S_{MSY} peer review.
    ii. Support the subsequent work of the SRFC fishery management plan amendment group, as appropriate and directed by the Council.