



Oregon

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To: Peter Hassemer, PFMC Chair

From: John North, ODFW Deputy Administrator

Subject: Request for SSC and STT to review proposed changes to the A13/OCN workgroup coho marine survival index

The current methodology for determining the maximum allowable fishery impacts for Oregon Coast Natural (OCN) coho utilizes a two-dimensional matrix with observed parental return and forecasted marine survival as the axes. In 2013, the Council accepted a methodology revision of the marine survival forecast where seven two-variable generalized additive models are refit annually to the OCN marine survival index estimated from six life cycle monitoring (LCM) sites (Suring and Lewis 2013). In 2017, the Council adopted a revision to the marine survival index methodology where the number of LCM sites used was reduced from six to five due to budget reductions (Suring 2017).

The ODFW LCM sites are funded in part by Oregon state general funds. In 2025, the budget for this fund was reduced, resulting in eliminating monitoring at two of the LCM sites used in the marine survival index methodology. Beginning with the 2026 forecast, it will not be possible to refit the models annually using the method adopted in 2017.

A result from the analysis conducted in 2017 found that marine survival at all LCM sites are generally correlated to each other in a single year, indicating that large scale or common processes account for most of the variation in marine survival across the ESU. The investigation into the correlation between the LCM sites has continued due to the latest budget reduction, and ODFW anticipates a revised method that compensates for the loss of the two LCM sites will be available for review. The proposed revision would change how we calculate the post-season observed marine survival index, which is what the survival forecast model is fit to annually. No changes to allowable exploitation rates or categorical equivalents to parental spawner abundance categories are proposed.

It is ODFW's intent to propose these revisions for consideration during planning for 2026 fisheries, and we are requesting that the Council add this item as a topic for SSC salmon subcommittee and STT consideration at the October 9-10, 2025, methodology review meeting. We anticipate that the completed analysis will be distributed to both groups by September 25, 2025.

Thank you for your consideration,

John North 

*To protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment
by present and future generations.*



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References

Suring, E. and M. Lewis. 2013. 2013 Technical Revision to the OCN Coho Work Group Harvest Matrix. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Salem, Oregon.

Suring, E. 2017. 2017 Technical Revision to the Marine Survival Forecast of the OCN Coho Work Group Harvest Matrix. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Salem, Oregon.