

SACRAMENTO RIVER FALL CHINOOK FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
AMENDMENT – WORKGROUP REPORT, INITIAL SCOPING

When Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) was declared ‘overfished’ in 2018, a rebuilding plan was developed (and adopted in 2019) that included a number of recommendations, including to reconsider the current conservation objective. SRFC was declared rebuilt in 2021, but the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) recognized a continued need to improve and update management of this stock.

In April 2022, the Council included a literature review of the basis behind the SRFC conservation objective as a salmon methodology review topic ([Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 1](#)). The literature review concluded the current conservation objective is difficult to reproduce using historical documents and available data. The results of the review were provided by the Scientific and Statistical Committee and Salmon Technical Team in [November 2022](#). Both groups expressed support for the development of a new conservation objective.

At their April 2023 meeting, the Council discussed the topic further and agreed that taking a detailed look at currently used information, reviewing any new material available, and identifying data gaps was the next logical step forward in evaluating the conservation objective for SRFC.

In June 2023, the Council formed an ad-hoc Sacramento River Fall Chinook Workgroup (SRWG), and approved a draft [Terms of Reference](#). The SRWG has provided two updates to the Council to date, the first in [June 2024](#) and the second in [November 2024](#).

In November 2024, the Council [provided guidance](#) to the SRWG on what to consider when further considering updates to the reference points, conservation objective, and harvest control rule. The SRWG has prepared a report for Council consideration at this meeting.

At its April 2025 meeting, the Council preliminarily selected two topics recommended by the SRWG for the 2025 Salmon Methodology Review and directed staff to develop a document outlining the steps and sequence required to comprehensively update the SRFC management framework (reference points, conservation objective, and harvest control rule).

In September 2025, the Council reviewed the document prepared by Council staff ([Informational Report 1](#)) and discussed transitioning work on updating the SRFC management framework to a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) amendment process. The SRWG’s proposed topics were not advanced for the 2025 methodology review, but the Council noted those topics and the work completed so far would help inform the development of FMP alternatives.

Scoping for the amendment is currently scheduled for September 2026, and staff have prepared a draft sequence of activities leading up to this date which have a high degree of focus on developing and adopting the scientific basis for any amendatory action. These proposed activities include an independent peer review process.

Under this agenda item, the Council should review the two attachments developed by Council staff. Attachment 1 summarizes SRWG reports, Scientific and Statistical Committee, Salmon Technical Team, and Salmon Advisory Subpanel input and Council guidance to date regarding updates to the SRFC management framework and lists the expertise needed to develop and analyze management alternatives. Attachment 1 also identifies key questions the Council should be prepared to address at this meeting that will assist in future planning and the development of the FMP amendment scoping document. Attachment 2 outlines a tentative timeline for developing the FMP amendment. No regulatory actions, amendatory actions, or scientific determinations are planned for this agenda item.

Council Tasks:

- 1. Review the information in the SRWG report and discuss, as appropriate.**
- 2. Confirm that the Council wishes to begin an FMP amendment process and adopt the workplan and tentative timeline, as outlined in Attachment 2. In particular:**
 - a. Confirm the formation of a Sacramento River fall Chinook FMP Amendment Workgroup and preliminarily adopt charges and membership. Schedule adoption of final charges and membership appointment for March 2026.**
 - b. Review the draft peer review process proposed in Attachment 1, Section II, and provide feedback on the scope and objectives of the review.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 1: SRFC FMP Planning Document.
2. Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 2: SRFC FMP Amendment Tentative Timeline.
3. Agenda Item G.4.a, Sacramento River Fall Chinook Ad-hoc Workgroup Report 1: Progress Report.
4. Agenda Item G.4.a, Sacramento River Fall Chinook Ad-hoc Workgroup Report 2: Appendices.
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| G.4 Sacramento River Fall Chinook Workgroup Fishery Management Plan Amendment – Workgroup Report, Initial Scoping | Angela Forristall |
| a. Workgroup Progress Report | Will Satterthwaite |
| b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| c. Public Comment | |
| d. Council Action: Consider Workgroup Report, Conduct Initial Scoping, and Provide Guidance on Workgroup Membership and Capacities, as Appropriate | |

PFMC
10/21/25