

KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORT

In June 2023, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) established the ad-hoc Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup (KRWG). The KRWG's primary role is to provide technical data to support the development of interim management measures for Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC), particularly in light of environmental changes stemming from the removal of Klamath River dams and the stocks overfished status.

In March 2024, the KRWG provided its first report to the Council ([Agenda Item C.4.a, Supplemental KRWG Report 2](#)), outlining a range of management options designed to provide additional protections for KRFC. Based on this report, the Council adopted a 20% buffer on the maximum allowable exploitation rate permitted under the Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan for the 2024 season. This buffer was applied only for 2024, with the Council noting that future decisions would depend on changing environmental conditions and their effects on KRFC.

In November 2024, the KRWG provided its second report to the Council ([Agenda Item F.5.a KRWG Report 1](#)). At that meeting, the Council directed the KRWG to refine the matrix-based approach and to develop a detailed workplan for a sub-basin management strategy. The Council also concluded that the buffered harvest control rule used in 2024 was the only approach sufficiently developed to be considered for use when setting the 2025 ocean salmon fisheries. However, because the KRFC exploitation rate fell within the *de minimis* range (not exceeding 10%), no additional buffer was applied for 2025.

In September 2025 the Council expressed an interest in revisiting the KRWG's charges at this meeting, as outlined in the [Terms of Reference](#), and capacity for continued work.

The Council should review the KRWG's report developed in response to the November 2024 guidance, discuss whether the KRWG should continue to refine any of the management approaches described in their report, and provide further guidance as necessary.

Additionally, the Council should discuss whether the buffered harvest control rule strategy that was used in 2024 and considered for 2025 remains the preferred interim management option for the upcoming salmon management process and possibly beyond, taking into account the timelines associated with other interim strategies described in the KRWG report.

Council Tasks:

- 1. Review the KRWG report.**
- 2. Review the KRWG Terms of Reference and consider progress on tasking and capacity for continued work.**
- 3. Provide guidance to the KRWG on management measures to further develop, if applicable.**

4. Discuss if the buffered harvest control rule approach is the Council’s preferred interim management approach for use in 2026 and potentially beyond, if applicable.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.5.a, Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup Progress Report 1 (***Electronic Only***).
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

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|--|-------------------|
| G.5 Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup Progress Report
and Recommendations | Angela Forristall |
| a. Workgroup Report | Michael O’Farrell |
| b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| c. Public Comment | |
| d. Council Action: Consider Workgroup Report and Provide Guidance, as Appropriate,
Provide Guidance on Future Workgroup Tasking and Membership, as Appropriate | |

PPMC
10/16/25