

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORT

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) discussed the Klamath River Fall Chinook Workgroup (KRWG) progress report ([Agenda Item H.5.a](#)) and offers the following considerations:

Applying a buffer to the current harvest control rule remains the only option ready for implementation for the 2026 preseason process. The STT implemented this approach in the 2024 preseason planning and is prepared to include it again in 2026 if directed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to do so.

The STT considers the matrix-based approach as a tool that could help inform management of Klamath River fall Chinook during the stabilization period of the dam removal process. However, minimal progress has been made in the past year, and the loss of KRWG experts have hindered the progress of the development of this tool.

The KRWG has described a workplan for the development of a sub-basin management approach. The STT notes their participation would be necessary throughout this process. Development of a two-basin assessment and management regime would be a significant increase in workload on the STT to participate in developing separate stock assessments, forecasts, and harvest models for preseason fishery planning.

The STT would also like to highlight the KRWG assignment in the [terms of reference](#) to “advise the Council on the implications to fisheries and fishery management tools from changes to production and coded-wire-tagging programs associated with dam removal”. It is the STT’s perspective that this item has not yet been adequately addressed. The STT has concerns that changes to hatchery production and tagging programs in the Klamath Basin may impact the ability of the STT to provide updated stock assessments informing the Council preseason management process.

PFMC
11/15/25