

SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
CONSULTATION RISK ANALYSIS REVIEW

In response to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reinitiating Endangered Species Act consultation on the effect of Council-area ocean salmon fisheries on Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW), the Pacific Fishery Marine Council (Council) formed the Ad Hoc SRKW Workgroup (Workgroup). The Workgroup was tasked with reassessing the effects of Council-area ocean salmon fisheries on the Chinook salmon prey base of SRKW. A draft Terms of Reference, which included the Workgroup's purpose and a proposed schedule, was also approved by the Council. NMFS has developed a webpage dedicated to the Workgroup which includes meeting schedules, materials shared, etc. (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/southern-resident-killer-whales-and-fisheries-interaction-workgroup>)

One of the main goals of the Workgroup was to provide a risk analysis report in time for this September Council meeting. The Workgroup has worked diligently to gather data, identify criteria, develop methods, and draft the outline for the risk assessment. The Workgroup is focused on using the best available information, and has the benefit of regional experts on the roster for both salmon and SRKW. Since their first meeting in May 2019, the Workgroup has held multiple in-person meetings and webinars that are open to the public. The Workgroup's 2019 schedule is provided in Attachment1.

Given the short time-frame and the high degree of analysis needed to formulate the risk analysis, the Workgroup's risk analysis report was not available for the advanced Briefing Book. The Workgroup is dedicated to providing a scientifically-sound report and anticipates the report will be available by the time the Council begins its session in Boise, Idaho on September 13. If the report is available sooner - Council staff will work to make it publically available as soon as possible.

Council Action:

- 1. Review progress and consider the report of the SRKW.**
- 2. Provide Guidance on the Preliminary Risk Assessment, Proposed Schedule, and Future Analyses.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1: Workgroup 2019 Schedule.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

F.3 Southern Resident Killer Whale Endangered Species Act Consultation
Reinitiation Risk Analysis Review

Robin Ehlke

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Review Progress of the Ad Hoc Southern Resident Killer Whale Workgroup, and Provide Guidance on the Preliminary Risk Assessment Report, Proposed Schedule, and Future Analyses

PFMC
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