

Agenda Item H.4 ESA Mitigation Measures for Salmon

Council Action:

- **Adopt Preliminary Preferred Alternatives for Mitigation Measures for Salmon Interactions in Groundfish Fisheries Pursuant to the 2017 NMFS Biological Opinion**

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE

I move the Council adopt the following as Preliminary Preferred Alternatives for salmon bycatch mitigation measures in groundfish fisheries:

Block Area Closures

Alternative 1: BACs would be developed as a routine inseason mitigation tool for salmon bycatch in the midwater trawl fisheries in the whiting and non-whiting sectors.

Extension of Block Area Closure for All Trawl Gears to the Western Boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone

Alternative 1: Develop regulations to allow for the extension of any block area closure seaward of 250 fathoms south of 46°16'00" N. latitude (WA/OR border) for all trawl gears to the western boundary of the EEZ (for midwater trawl) or to the 700 fathom EFH Conservation Area closure (for bottom trawl).

Selective Flatfish Trawl Net requirement

Alternative 1: SFFT nets would be available for use as a routine inseason mitigation tool to address salmon bycatch in the groundfish bottom trawl fisheries.

Pacific Whiting Cooperative Operational Rules

Alternative 2: Develop regulations to allow each whiting sector co-op to develop salmon mitigation plans for approval by NMFS.

- Include a requirement for annual season summary reporting to the Council and NMFS describing high-salmon bycatch incident information and avoidance measures taken.

Automatic Authority for NMFS to Close Trawl Sectors and Preserve 500 Chinook salmon for Fixed Gear and Recreational Fisheries

Alternative 1: Develop an inseason process to would close the trawl sectors as follows:

- Close the bottom and mid-water trawl sectors upon attainment of 8,500 Chinook salmon
- Close the whiting sectors upon attainment of 14,000 Chinook salmon
- Close all trawl fisheries upon attainment of 19,500 Chinook salmon

Development of Reserve rule provision

Alternative 1: A sector may only access the Reserve if the Council or NMFS has taken action to minimize Chinook salmon bycatch in that sector prior to it reaching its Chinook salmon bycatch guideline.

- The requirement for Council or NMFS action to minimize Chinook salmon bycatch for access to the Reserve by the at-sea whiting sectors would be satisfied upon approval by NMFS of each of those sector's respective co-op salmon mitigation plans.

- The requirement for Council or NMFS action to minimize Chinook salmon bycatch for access to the Reserve by the shoreside whiting sector would be satisfied upon approval by NMFS of that sector's co-op salmon mitigation plans provided all participating vessels are members of a shoreside co-op with an approved salmon mitigation plan.
- If there are vessels participating in the shoreside whiting fishery that are not members of a shoreside whiting co-op, then additional actions by the Council or NMFS may be needed to minimize Chinook salmon bycatch (e.g., BACs, SFFT) prior to allowing access to the reserve by that sector.

Moved by Michele Culver; 2nd by Rich Lincoln

Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT-NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES