

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 16, ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS
AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

At its September 2010 meeting the Council adopted alternatives, including preliminary preferred alternatives, to release for public review prior to taking final action on Amendment 16 to the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The alternatives addressed the following topics: stock classification, status determination criteria (SDC), overfishing limit (OFL)/acceptable biological catch (ABC)/annual catch limit (ACL) reference point framework, accountability measures (AMs), and *de minimis* fishery provisions (Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 1). Since September, the ad hoc Salmon Amendment Committee (SAC) has reviewed the alternatives and requests Council clarification and guidance on several issues (Agenda Item F.2.b, SAC Report) so the SAC can complete a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to inform the remainder of the decision-making process.

It has become necessary to delay taking final Council action on Amendment 16 until after the November 2010 meeting. The Council should consider workload and administrative timelines for taking final action on Amendment 16, completing the EA, and implementing a final rule.

In March 2010, the Council recommended state and tribal co-managers provide input on Salmon Technical Team (STT) proposals for trigger points used to identify potential overfishing concerns for Puget Sound coho. With the subsequent development of Amendment 16 SDC alternatives, it became apparent the co-manager input would also be instrumental in developing new SDC alternatives for both Puget Sound and Washington Coastal coho. Therefore, Council staff requested the co-managers respond to the alternative SDC reference points developed by the STT for use in Amendment 16 (Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 2). This will allow the SAC to complete an EA using appropriate assumptions for SDC reference points.

Council Task:

- 1. Provide guidance on development and analysis of alternatives.**
- 2. Provide guidance on timelines for final action and implementation of Amendment 16.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 1: Salmon FMP Amendment 16: Tentative Range of Alternatives for Public Review.
2. Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 2: Letter to co-managers regarding status determination criteria for Washington Coastal and Puget Sound coho stocks.
3. Agenda Item F.2.b, SAC Report: Salmon Amendment Committee Issue Paper Regarding Alternative for Amendment 16 to the Salmon Fishery Management Plan.
4. Agenda Item F.2.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Review the Adopted Alternatives and Provide Further Guidance for the Public Review Draft
- Chuck Tracy**

PFMC
10/18/10