



Instructions for Reviewing the Plan and Submitting Comments

Public Draft SONCC Coho Salmon Recovery Plan

This handout provides instructions for how to submit comments on the public draft of the Draft Recovery Plan for Southern Oregon Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Salmon, released by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on January 5, 2012.

Comment deadline has been extended to May 4, 2012:

A 120-day public comment period has been established (January 5 – May 4, 2012). In addition, five public meetings are planned.

Ways to access the plan:

1) Internet:

The draft plan is available for download as Adobe Acrobat (PDF) files on the NMFS Southwest Region recovery planning website:
<http://www.swr.noaa.gov/recovery/>

2) CD-ROMs of the plan in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format are available by request. Please contact Julie Weeder (see contact info below) or inquire at the public meetings.

3) A printed paper copy of the plan is available for review at public libraries in the following cities:

Eureka, CA; Willits, CA; Yreka, CA; Medford, OR; Brookings, OR

Where/How to submit comments:

Comments can be submitted via email, postal mail, or delivered in person. Contact info:

Julie Weeder
National Marine Fisheries Service
1655 Heindon Rd.
Arcata, California, 95521
julie.weeder@noaa.gov
(707) 825-5168

A comment form in Microsoft Excel format is available on the Internet and CD-ROMs accompanying the plan. Commenters are encouraged, though not required, to use the comment form and submit comments via email. Once received, NMFS will enter all comments into a comment database, and the comment form is designed to facilitate the efficiency and accuracy of that process.

What geographic areas or subjects are you most interested in?

To assist you in prioritizing which parts of the plan you want to read and comment on, the back side of this page summarizes the contents each section of the plan.

Condensed Guide to the Public Draft SONCC Coho Salmon Recovery Plan

The public draft of the Draft Recovery Plan for the Southern Oregon Northern California Coast (SONCC) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) of coho salmon is 1420 pages (main plan is 1190 pages, plus 230 pages of appendices). Given the length of the plan, you may want to focus your review on the parts of the plan matching your geographic area or subject of interest/expertise. The following describes the contents of each section of the plan:

Executive Summary (7 pages): Brief overview of the plan.

Keys to Understanding (20 pages): *Illustrated summary of the plan including key concepts. This is a good place to become familiar with the overall structure and concepts of the plan. Printed copies of this section are available as handouts at the public meetings.*

Chapter 1 Background (16 pages): Background information on recovery planning, the Endangered Species Act, critical habitat designation, status reviews, and life history of coho salmon.

Chapter 2 Structure, Viability, and Status of the SONCC Coho Salmon ESU (22 pages): The historic structure and function of the SONCC coho salmon ESU (i.e. how the populations were defined), viability criteria (i.e. metrics assessing the likelihood of avoiding extinction), and the current status of the ESU (i.e. evaluating how current conditions compare with viability criteria).

Chapter 3 Stresses and Threats (70 pages): Stresses (impaired aspects of species or its habitat) and threats (human activities or processes that have caused, are causing, or may cause the stress). Includes review of scientific literature.

Chapter 4 Conservation and Recovery Goals, Objectives, and Criteria (16 pages): The specific goals and criteria that must be met to delist (remove from the Endangered Species Act) coho salmon. Also discusses the recovery goals for the states of Oregon and California.

Chapter 5 Monitoring and Adaptive Management (40 pages): Describes methods proposed for monitoring the recovery of coho salmon and their habitat.

Chapter 6 Implementation Program (14 pages): Describes strategy for identifying and prioritizing actions to restore coho salmon. Describes the lists of recovery actions included elsewhere in the plan.

Appendices:

A (5 pages): Updated population categorization and IP-km. Based on new information such as the presence of naturally-occurring fish barriers, NMFS revised estimates of the length of potential habitat available in each population, which then triggered changes to population classifications.

B (32 pages): Methods used to conduct stress and threat analysis. Includes list of datasets utilized.

C (37 pages): Methods used to select core populations (the priority areas for recovery).

D (17 pages): Methods used to generate costs estimates for recovery actions.

E (14 pages): Directory of conservation partners, noting entities for each population area.

F (96 pages): Table listing the costs and lead agency for each recovery action.

G (11 pages): Glossary and list of abbreviations.

H (5 pages): Description of electronic maps used in the threats assessment.

Chapters 7 through 45: Population Profiles (~10-30 pages each): *There is a chapter for each coho population area, with descriptions of species status, land use history, habitat, stresses, and threats, and table of recovery actions. These chapters contain the most geographically-specific information in the plan, so if you are interested in a particular geographic area, review the profile for that area.*