

REBUILDING PLAN CONSIDERATION FOR SACRAMENTO FALL CHINOOK AND STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA COHO

The Magnuson-Stevens Act and National Standard 1 Guidelines require a rebuilding plan be prepared and implemented within two years of notification that a stock is overfished. Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) were declared overfished in 2010 and Western Strait of Juan de Fuca coho were declared overfished in 2009. By the April 2011 Council meeting, assessments discussing likely causes, including the role of fisheries, in the overfished determination were completed by the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and Habitat Committee for both of these stocks based on the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) requirements in place at the time. For SRFC, the Council concluded the stock was rebuilt and no longer in an overfished designation, and recommended NMFS change the status designation to rebuilt. However NMFS did not change its status designation (Agenda Item G.3.b, Supplemental NMFS Report). For Strait of Juan de Fuca coho, no rebuilding plan was prepared, pending development of appropriate reference points for the Eastern and Western stocks, which were combined into a single stock in 2009.

The STT will propose rebuilding plans for these two stocks based on the requirements established in Amendment 16 (see Agenda Item G.2.a, Attachment 1). Based on the results of the STT's proposed rebuilding plans and recommendations, the Council needs to adopt rebuilding plans for recommendation to the Secretary of Commerce.

It should be noted that the Salmon FMP states that existing harvest control rules provide a default rebuilding plan that targets spawning escapement at or above maximum sustainable yield (MSY), provided sufficient recruits are available, and targets a rebuilding period of no more than one generation (three years for coho, five years for Chinook). If sufficient recruits are not available to achieve spawning escapement at or above MSY in a particular year, the control rules provide for the potential use of *de minimis* exploitation rates that allow continued participation of fishing communities during the rebuilding process while minimizing risk of overfishing. However, the Council should consider the specific circumstances surrounding an overfished determination and ensure that the adopted rebuilding plans address all relevant issues.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt rebuilding plans for Sacramento River fall Chinook and Strait of Juan de Fuca coho.**
- 2. Identify an appropriate process for implementing the rebuilding plans.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2.a, Attachment 1: Excerpts from Chapter 3 of the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan Updated Through Amendment 16.
2. Agenda Item G.3.b, Supplemental NMFS Report: Rationale for 2011 SRFC Status Determination.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Rebuilding Plans for Sacramento Fall Chinook and Strait of Juan de Fuca Coho as Necessary

Chuck Tracy

PFMC
02/10/12