

PROPOSED AD HOC TULE CHINOOK WORKGROUP (TCW)¹

This ad hoc committee was first considered in April and has been proposed to assist or take the lead in a focused effort to explore abundance-based approaches to setting allowable fishing rates in the long-term to protect Lower Columbia River tule Chinook. The recommendations of the TCW would be reported to the Council which could adopt specific recommendations to provide to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for their consideration in the development of future biological opinions. The criteria and membership proposed for the committee are as follows:

Objective:	Assist the Council and NMFS in exploring the development of abundance-based management approaches to allow fishing on abundant salmon stocks while protecting the recovery of Lower Columbia River tule Chinook (LCRT).
Duties and Process:	Examine various models currently in use for abundance-based management approaches with the charge to develop a usable approach, if possible, for LCRT. The TCW work would be integrated with the Council’s annual salmon methodology review process that produces recommendations in November of each year. The process would include establishing the committee at the June Council meeting, initial meetings during the summer of 2010, a review of intermediate results via a progress report in the fall of 2010, and final recommendations to be made in the fall of 2011 through the salmon methodology review process. Any fishing mortality rate ceilings developed and approved by the Council would be submitted to NMFS for possible use in the next LCRT biological opinion for ocean salmon seasons in 2012 and beyond, and distributed to State and Federal recovery planning processes. In the event a usable approach emerges from this process, the Council might consider a possible FMP amendment process beginning after November 2011.
Members:	Approximately a dozen members with technical expertise in salmon fishery impacts modeling and salmon recovery population dynamics, representing those entities involved with management of Columbia River salmon stocks. Potential candidate members include: Tom Cooney, NMFS NWFSC; Larrie LaVoy, NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division; and Mark Sherrill, NMFS Protected Species Division; Guy Norman and Cindy LeFleur, WDFW; John North and Tom Stahl, ODFW; Hap Leon, Makah Tribe; Stuart Ellis, CRITFC; Council staff facilitating the TCW would be Chuck Tracy
Duration:	Meet in the near term and as necessary to complete the work and final recommendations to the Council by no later than the November 2011 Council meeting. Interim progress reports would be issued at check points associated with the salmon methodology review process. Terminate the committee no later than April 30, 2012.

PFMC
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¹ Council Operating Procedure 8 establishes procedures for creating, operating, and terminating ad hoc committees. Ad hoc committees are created to address specific (or short-term) issues and are intended to be in place for a limited duration. Ad hoc committees are created and terminated by vote of the Council and their objectives, duties, and expected duration are specified at the time the committee is created. Committee members are appointed by the Council Chair based on the advice of Council members and advisory committees.