

**NOAA
FISHERIES**

**West Coast
Regional
Office**

2020 Ocean Salmon Fishery Information

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Salmon Informational Meeting
February 27, 2020

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West Coast Region

All Guidance Preliminary; final at March Council Meeting

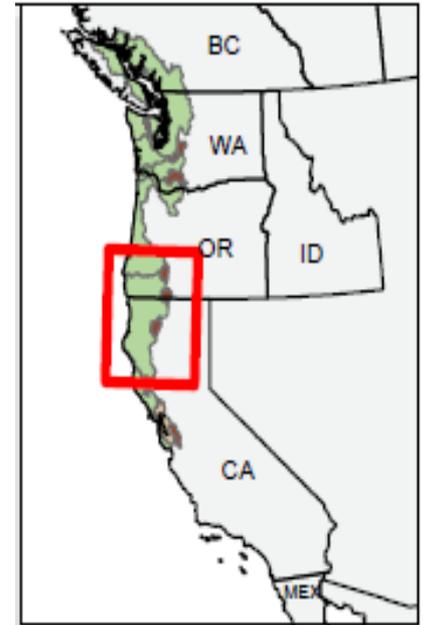
2020 recommendation is to follow the Salmon FMP, which requires use of the Council adopted rebuilding plans. (forecasts will be covered in Michael O'Farrell's presentation)

Indicator Stock	NOAA Guidance will achieve these escapement levels
Sacramento River fall Chinook	141,955 hatchery and natural area adult spawners
Klamath River fall Chinook	36,206 natural area adult spawners

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Listed Stocks

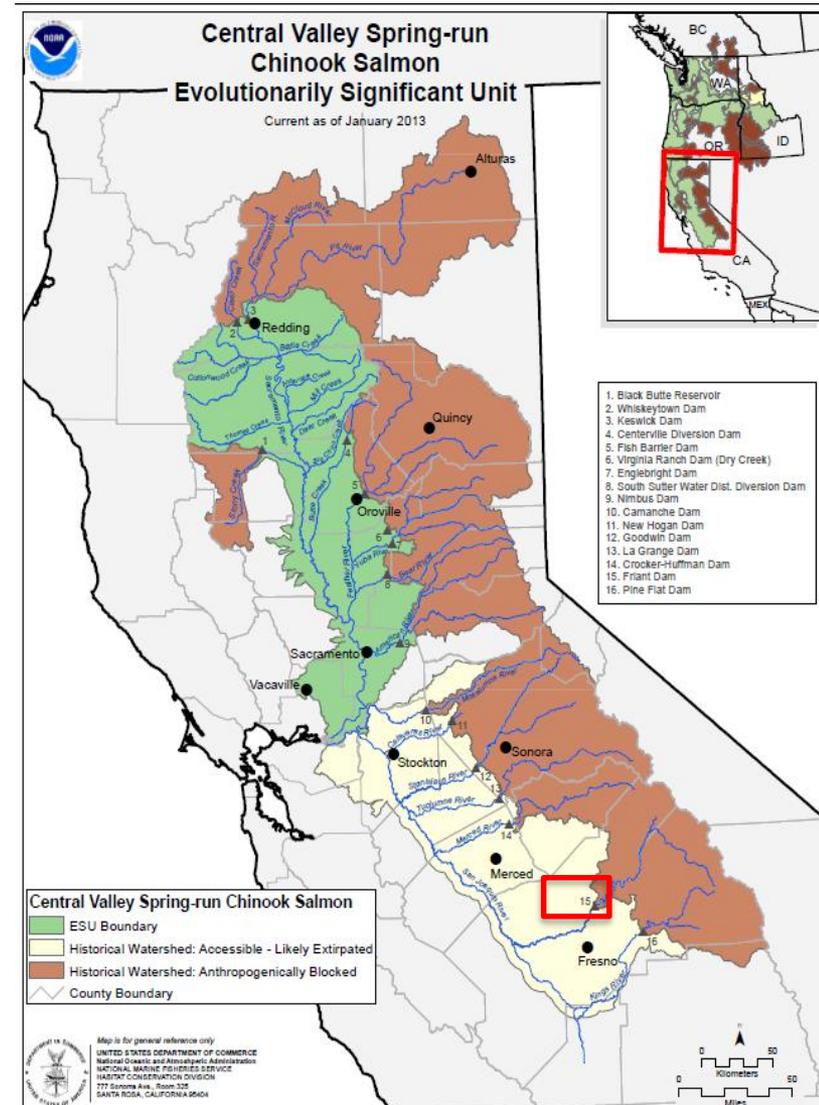
Coho Salmon

- Prohibit coho-directed fisheries off CA;
- Prohibit coho retention in Chinook-directed fisheries off CA
- Southern Oregon/Northern California Coho
 - ESA – Threatened
 - Recovery plan released September 2014 (79 FR 58750) – Current Steps: workshops to develop implementation plan
- Central California Coastal Coho
 - ESA – Endangered
 - Final recovery plan released 2012
 - Current Steps: Species in the Spotlight designation with NOAA Fisheries and the CDFW formed a “Priority Action Coho Team” to assemble State and Federal recovery plan priorities and actions



Central Valley Spring Chinook Salmon

- ESA-threatened
- Recovery plan adopted July 2014 (79 FR 42504)
- Current framework continues to provide sufficient protection



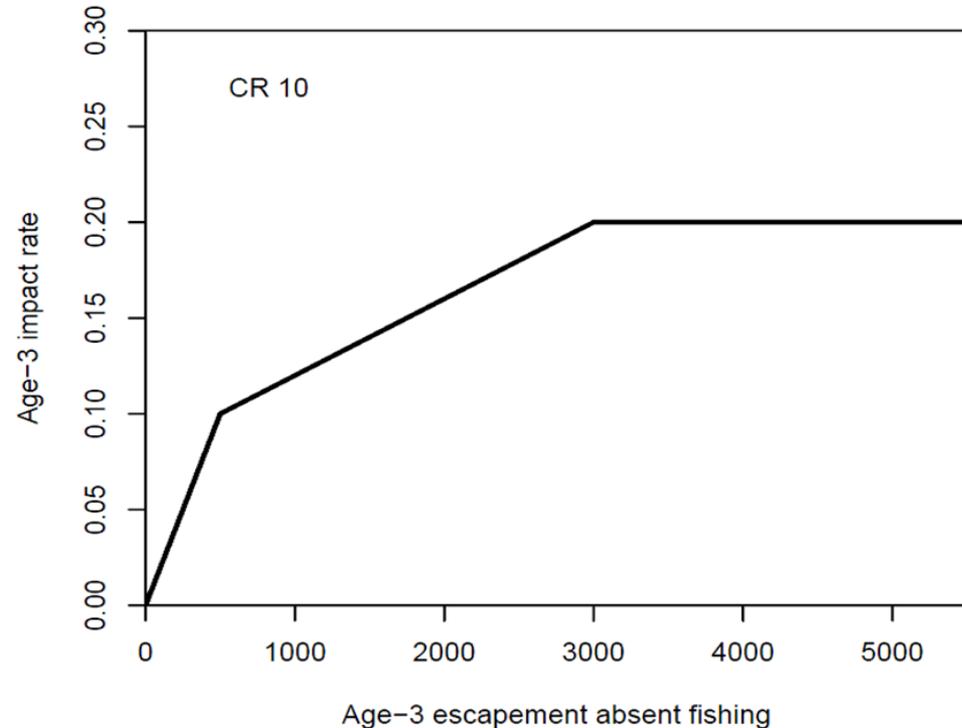
Sacramento River Winter Chinook Salmon

- ESA – Endangered
- Recovery plan adopted July 2014 (79 FR 42504)
- Guidance for 2018:
 - Continuation of consultation standards on minimum size limits and seasonal windows
 - Circle hook restrictions while mooching in the recreational fishery between Horse Mountain and Point Conception



Sacramento River Winter Chinook Salmon

- The current HCR:



- Based on this new rule NMFS preliminary guidance for an allowable impact rate in 2019 is: 20.0%

Southern Resident Killer Whales

- ESA – Endangered
 - Final recovery plan released 2008
 - Since 2009, the population has declined from 87 whales down to a near historic low of 72 whales.
- On April 12, 2019, NMFS re-initiated ESA consultation on the Council salmon fisheries, and asked for the Council's assistance in assessing the effects of implementing the FMP in 2019 and beyond.

Southern Resident Killer Whales

- In response the Council proposed and formed an Ad Hoc Workgroup tasked with reassessing the effects of Council-area ocean salmon fisheries on SRKW.
- Depending on the results, the Workgroup was also tasked with developing a long-term approach that may include proposed conservation measure(s) or management tool(s) that limit PFMC fishery impacts to prey availability for SRKW relative to implementing the FMP.



Southern Resident Killer Whales

- The Workgroup held public work sessions multiple times between May 2019 and February 2020, updating the Council at each of its meetings in between on progress made towards accomplishing its assigned task.
- NMFS is now working on a new opinion that will apply to fisheries in 2020 incorporating the Workgroup's developed risk assessment.
- While we support continuing the Workgroup's work to develop longterm proposed conservation measure(s) we are utilizing this newly available science to base our guidance for 2020.



Southern Resident Killer Whales

Preliminary Guidance for 2020

- NMFS expects the Council salmon fisheries in the coastal waters of the EEZ will continue to meet the conservation objectives for ESA-listed salmon and continue to be responsive to the abundance of salmon stocks similar to that over this last decade when the whale status has declined
- Using the methodology adopted by the Council's Ad Hoc Workgroup, we advise the Council to assess the pre-fishery forecasted abundance levels (FRAM time step one) by spatial aggregate (the North of Cape Falcon, Cape Falcon south to Humbug Mountain, and aggregated South of Humbug Mountain management areas).

Southern Resident Killer Whales

Preliminary Guidance for 2020

- If the NOF abundance is equal to or less than the average in the seven lowest years of abundance (1994 – 1996, 1998 – 2000 and 2007) (FRAM time step one, refer to PFMC 2020 Appendix E, Table 2), the Council should implement precautionary conservation measures for Council salmon fisheries that affect the abundance in NOF waters (this includes salmon fisheries in Washington, Oregon, and California waters) to benefit the whales.
- NMFS supports managers for fisheries South of Cape Falcon to the U.S.-Mexico border moving forward with the September 2019 Council adoption of recommendations for the rebuilding plans for the Sacramento and Klamath Rivers Chinook salmon stocks



Thank You

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Special thanks to:

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