

# NMFS 2011

## Salmon Fishery Guidance

**California Department of Fish and Game**  
**Salmon Information Meeting**  
**March 1, 2011**

**Heidi Taylor**  
**Sustainable Fisheries Division**  
**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**  
**Southwest Region**

Preliminary NMFS guidance for salmon stocks off California;  
final guidance will be provided at the March 2011 Pacific  
Fishery Management Council meeting.



# Klamath River fall Chinook (KRFC)

- Conservation objective: spawner reduction rate of no more than 67 percent, while achieving a minimum of 35,000 naturally spawning adults per year
- “Overfishing Concern” triggered under the FMP in 2007 due to three consecutive years (2004-2006) of not meeting the conservation objective of 35,000 naturally spawning KRFC adults (analogous to MSA “overfished” determination, i.e., biomass fell below a minimum threshold in 2004-2006)

Year	Number of naturally spawning KRFC adults
2010	37,200
2009	44,400
2008	30,900
2007	60,700



# KRFC Rebuilding

- Council recommended criteria for ending the overfishing concern and rebuilding KRFC in Sept. 2008:
  - Proposed the overfishing concern will end when:
    - 40,700 is achieved in 2 consecutive years, OR
    - 35,000 is achieved in 3 out of 4 consecutive years

<i># Natural adult KRFC spawners</i>	<u>2007</u> (60,700)	<u>2008</u> (30,900)	<u>2009</u> (44,400)	<u>2010</u> (37,200)
40,700	✓	✗	✓	✗
35,000	✓	✗	✓	✓

- According to the Council’s rebuilding plan and the 35,000 criteria, the overfishing concern may be considered no longer in effect and the stock may be considered “not overfished” and rebuilt
- NMFS Guidance: Because an escapement of 35,000 naturally spawning KRFC adults has been met for three out of four consecutive years, KRFC should be managed to achieve an escapement of at least 35,000 naturally spawning KRFC adults and a spawner reduction rate of no more than 67 percent.



# Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC)

- Conservation objective: 122,000 to 180,000 natural and hatchery adult spawners
- “Overfishing Concern” triggered under the FMP in 2010 due to three consecutive years (2007-2009) of not meeting the lower end of the conservation objective goal range
  - 2010: **125,400** (managed to achieve 180,000; exceeds the lower end of escapement goal range)
  - 2009: **40,900** (lowest escapement on record)
  - 2008: **65,400** (2<sup>nd</sup> lowest escapement on record)
  - 2007: **91,400** (1st time in 15 years, the conservation objective was not met)
- NMFS Guidance: Due to the recent depressed status of SRFC, NMFS recommends a more precautionary approach to managing the stock in 2011, thereby achieving a forecast escapement toward the upper end of the conservation objective goal range.



# *Endangered Species Act (ESA) Listed Stocks*



# Sacramento River Winter Chinook

- ESA – Endangered
- Jeopardy Biological Opinion completed on April 30, 2010
- RPA calls for a new framework for managing fishery impacts on winter-run by the start of the 2012 fishing year
- Because the new framework is not yet available for implementation, in the interim, NMFS guidance will provide guidance to the Council in March for preseason planning
  - Until the management framework is available, biological opinion calls for similarly conservative measures as the 2010 fishing year
    - Reduction in recreational fishery impacts south of Point Arena in years when abundance of winter run is low or in a declining trend
      - Recreational fishery is responsible for approximately 80% of the age-3 fishery impacts in a typical year



# Sacramento Winter Chinook (cont.)

- 2011 guidance includes season restrictions and size limits south of Point Arena
- NMFS is allowing the same flexibility given at the 2010 March Council meeting, a combination of time/area closures and size limits

Fishery	Location	Shall Open No Earlier Than:	Shall Close No Later Than:	Minimum Total Size Limit Shall be at Least:
Recreational*	Between Point Arena and Pigeon Point	1st Saturday in April	2nd Sunday in November	20 inches (April 2011 size limit must be 24-inches)
	Between Pigeon Point and the U.S.-Mexico Border	1st Saturday in April	1st Sunday in October	
<p>* In addition, the Council shall choose at least one of the following options for the recreational fishery south of Point Arena:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 24-inch minimum total size limit (May – Aug. 2011, Apr. 2012); 20 inches (Sept.-Nov.)</li> <li>- Close the recreational fishery for at least two consecutive months (any consecutive 61 day period) at some point from May 1 through Aug. 31, which should apply to all areas south of Point Arena simultaneously.</li> <li>- Close some management areas south of Point Arena for two consecutive months (May 1 through Aug. 31) and implement the 24-inch minimum total size limit in other areas south of Point Arena.</li> </ul>				
Commercial	Between Point Arena and the U.S.-Mexico Border**	May 1	September 30	26 inches
	**Exception: Between Point Reyes and Point San Pedro, there may be an October fishery conducted Monday through Friday, but shall end no later than October 15.			

- Since 1998, CDFG and the Council have recommended terminal gear restrictions, including use of circle hooks while mooching in the recreational fishery between Horse Mountain and Point Conception, designed to reduce hook and release mortality. These restrictions should continue.



# Central Valley Spring Chinook

- ESA – Threatened
- 2000 Biological Opinion states that regulations under the Salmon FMP and Biological Opinion for Sacramento River Winter Chinook provide sufficient protection for this stock.
- Abundance trends (combined spawning escapement to Deer, Mill, Butte Creeks)
  - Increased significantly between 2001 and 2005, but have declined since, which could be related to the broader salmon decline observed in California.
- NMFS concludes the 2011 guidance for Sacramento winter run and other regulatory measures in the salmon FMP provides sufficient protection for this stock in the 2011 fishing year.





# California Coastal Chinook

- ESA – Threatened
- 2000 Biological Opinion
- Indicator stock – Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC); limits on KRFC age-4 ocean harvest rates serve as the consultation standard
- Conservation objective: management measures shall result in a forecast KRFC age-4 ocean harvest rate of no greater than 16 percent



# Coho

- **Central California Coastal (CCC) Coho**
  - ESA – Endangered
  - Little information on past harvest rates or current hooking mortality, incidental to Chinook fisheries
  - In the absence of more specific information, prohibit Coho-directed fisheries and Coho retention in Chinook-directed fisheries off California
- **Southern Oregon/Northern California Coastal Coho (SONCC Coho)**
  - ESA – Threatened
  - Indicator stock – the Rogue/Klamath coho hatchery stock
  - 1999 supplemental Biological Opinion:
    - No more than a 13.0% ocean exploitation rate on Rogue/Klamath coho hatchery stocks

