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PACIFIC COAST SALMON FISHERY

Management Measures To Limit Fishery Impacts on Sacramento River Winter- Run Chinook Salmon

The final rule regarding Management Measures To Limit Fishery Impacts on Sacramento River Winter-Run Chinook Salmon published on April 26, 2018. This rule makes changes to existing management measures, which are explained below.

Regulations contained in this rule are effective April 25, 2018.

The full rule can be found at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/sustainable-fisheries/west-coast-salmon-and-steelhead-federal-register-rules-and-notice>

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This document serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide, complying with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996

Background

Ocean salmon fisheries off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California are managed by the Council and NMFS according to the FMP. The FMP includes harvest controls that are used to manage salmon stocks sustainably. The FMP also requires that the Council manage fisheries consistent with “consultation standards” for stocks listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for which NMFS has issued biological opinions. At its November 2017 meeting, the Council adopted a preferred alternative for new management measures to limit fishery impacts to endangered SRWC, including a harvest control rule, to replace measures that have been in place since 2012. The Council developed these new management measures over a two-year period that included discussion at several public meetings, which provided opportunity for public comment. These new management measures include updated salmon abundance modeling methods that utilize the best available science and address concerns that the existing measures were overly conservative. The Council transmitted their recommendation to NMFS on December 6, 2017. NMFS published a proposed rule on February 22, 2018 ([83 FR 7650](#)) and accepted comments through March 9, 2018. The rationale for and effects of the rule are described in more detail in the proposed rule.

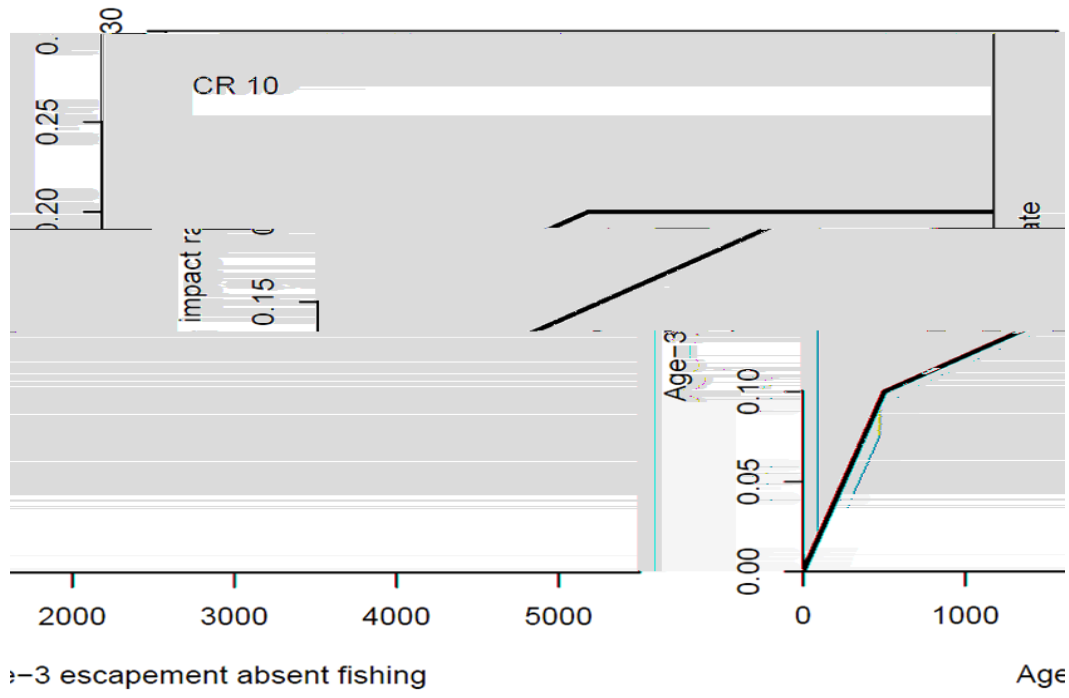
The management measures approved in this final rule are unchanged from the proposed rule and consist of two parts. Part one is the continued use of season and size restrictions that were included in the 2012 management measures (see Table 1, below). Part two is a harvest control rule, recommended by the Council, which uses juvenile survival (*i.e.*, fry to the end of age-two in the ocean) to model a forecast of age-three escapement absent fishing (escapement). The model used is a modification of the approach described in Winship *et al.* (2014) and is detailed in O’Farrell *et al.* (2016). The harvest control rule uses a forward-looking forecast rather than the previously used hind-cast methodology. The new harvest control rule sets the maximum allowable age-three impact rate based on the forecast escapement. At escapement above 3,000, the allowable impact rate is fixed at 20 percent. At escapement between 3,000 and 500, the allowable impact rate declines linearly from 20 percent to 10 percent. At escapement between 500 and 0, the allowable impact rate declines linearly from 10 percent to 0 percent, thus providing fishing opportunity at all levels of SRWC abundance. See Figure 1.

Table 1. Fishing Season and Size Restrictions for Ocean Chinook Salmon Fisheries, South of Point Arena, California

Fishery	Location	Shall open no earlier than	Shall close no later than	Minimum size limit (total length ¹) shall be
Recreational	Between Point Arena and Pigeon Point	1 st Saturday in April	2 nd Sunday in November	20 inches
	Between Pigeon Point and the U.S./Mexico border	1 st Saturday in April	1 st Sunday in October	
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 commercial fishery conducted Monday through Friday, but shall end no later than October 15.				

¹Total length of salmon means the shortest distance between the tip of the snout or jaw (whichever extends furthest while the mouth is closed) and the tip of the longest lobe of the tail, without resort to any force or mutilation of the salmon other than fanning or swinging the tail (50 CFR 660.402).

Figure 1. The Harvest Control Rule (CR10), Recommended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council, for Management of Ocean Salmon Fisheries that Affect Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook Salmon (SRWC Workgroup 2017).



References Cited

O’Farrell, M., N. Hendrix, and M. Mohr. 2016. An evaluation of preseason abundance forecasts for Sacramento River winter Chinook salmon. Pacific Fishery Management Council Briefing Book for November 2016, 35p.

SRWC Workgroup. 2017. Further evaluation of Sacramento River winter Chinook control rules, dated October 18, 2017. Pacific Fishery Management Council Briefing Book for November 2017, 9 p

Winship, A. J., M. R. O’Farrell, and M. S. Mohr. 2014. Fishery and hatchery effects on an endangered salmon population with low productivity. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 143, 957–971