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December 5, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Kate Self, Patty O'Toole

SUBJECT: Overview of Pacific Ocean and Columbia River Harvest Management

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Ed Farley (Program Manager, Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Program at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center)
Tony Siniscal (Fisheries Biologist, Anadromous Harvest Management Branch of the NOAA Fisheries Sustainable Fisheries Division)
Kyle Adicks (Intergovernmental Salmon Manager, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)
Mike Matylewich (Fisheries Management Director, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission)

Summary: The management of Columbia River salmonid stocks and their harvest is a highly regulated and collaborative effort carried out by multiple entities on an ongoing basis. This group of federal, state, and tribal representatives will introduce the Council and the region to some of these processes through a panel presentation and discussion. It will cover where Columbia River salmon go in the ocean, some basics of their ocean experience, and an overview of agreements that require sharing the allocation of conservation responsibility, annual harvest, and related decisions or actions. Following a brief introduction of the species and entities involved, Ed Farley will present on the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and high seas fisheries, Tony Siniscal will present on the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC), Kyle Adicks will

present on the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) and the North of Cape Falcon (NOF) process, and Mike Matylewich will present on Columbia River harvest and the United States vs. Oregon Management Agreement (U.S. v OR).

Relevance: This panel is in response to interest by Council members and others following a recent presentation to the Council which included characterizations of ocean harvest of Columbia River Salmon and steelhead. While the Council is not responsible for managing or directly addressing salmon harvest, it is important for the Council and region to be informed on how ocean and river harvest decisions are made. These decisions are rooted in on solid scientific and technical bases to guide harvest levels along with broad representation on policy decisions. Additionally, many of the Fish and Wildlife Program's hatcheries, and others in the basin have a stated purpose of rearing and releasing fish for harvest purposes.

Background: Pacific salmon and steelhead are culturally, ecologically, and economically important to West Coast communities. Salmon fisheries are complex and require cooperation amongst many parties to ensure that the fisheries are managed sustainably (NOAA). This cooperation relies on multiple fishers, tribes, states, and international governing bodies. At the December Council meeting, the panel will cover the [North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission](#) (NPAFC), the [Pacific Salmon Commission](#) (PSC), the [Pacific Fishery Management Council](#) (PFMC), the [North of Cape Falcon](#) (NOF) process, and the [United States v. Oregon](#) (U.S. v OR) process. Salmon swim long distances and cross borders and boundaries, so many communities and groups participate in their management. These groups include the United States and Canadian governments, First Nations in British Columbia, American Indian Tribes in the United States, individual states and provinces, and recreational and commercial fishing groups from Alaska to California. In addition, the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission includes the governments of Canada, Japan, Russia, and Korea.

Briefly, the [North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission](#) strives to promote the conservation of anadromous stocks (Pacific salmon and steelhead trout) in the Convention Area which includes the international waters of the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas north of 33° North beyond the 200-mile zone (exclusive economic zones) of the coastal States. This is done through international collaborations in both research and enforcement. The [Pacific Salmon Commission](#) enables the implementation of principles from the Pacific Salmon Treaty among cooperative participants in the international ocean waters off Alaska, Canada, Washington, and Oregon. The [Pacific Fishery Management Council](#) manages the fisheries in the coastal waters of the U.S. states of

Washington, Oregon, and California from 3 to 200 miles offshore. The [North of Cape Falcon](#) process coincides with annual PFMC pre-season planning when state, federal and tribal fishery managers gather to plan the Northwest's recreational and commercial salmon fisheries. This pre-season planning process, known as the "North of Falcon" process, involves a series of public meetings involving federal, state, tribal and industry representatives and other concerned citizens. The management authorities of U.S. Ocean waters from 0 to 3 miles offshore and inland (inside waters) fisheries are the tribes, and the Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California Departments of Fish and Wildlife (or Fish and Game). Inland fisheries include water-influenced environments located within land boundaries such as wetlands, estuaries, bays, and rivers. The [United States v. Oregon](#) (U.S. v OR) process is implemented via the [2018-2027 U.S. v OR Management Agreement](#). This management agreement implements harvest policies that the parties have agreed should govern the amount of harvest in the Columbia River.

More Info:

- [Pacific Salmon and Steelhead Glossary NOAA](#)
- [West Coast Salmon and Steelhead Fisheries Management Map](#)
- [NPAFC Background](#)
- [Pacific Salmon Treaty and the Pacific Salmon Commission](#)
- [Salmon and Steelhead Fisheries in the Mainstem Columbia River and Snake River](#)