



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

West Coast Region Perspectives

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

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2018 Updates and Draft 2019 Priorities

- SRKW Recovery / J50 Response
- Salmon Recovery
- Reintroductions and Passage
- Pinniped Predation
- Aquaculture
- HGMPs
- Groundfish Management and Increasing Fishing Opportunities
- Fishery Disasters
- Federal Tribal Treaty and Trust Obligations
- International Fishing Agreements



Southern Resident Killer Whale Recovery

SRKWs highly endangered,
now number 75

Three main threats to the whales:

- quality and dearth of prey
- vessel traffic and noise
- chemical contaminants

J50 Response

- Antibiotics delivered, feeding attempts made to J50
- International effort, including NMFS, Canada, Tribal, and WA state parties



Enhancing SRKW Prey

With tribes, state, regional, and NGO partners, NMFS has identified priority Chinook salmon populations for SRKW prey augmentation

Habitat Conservation

- New Orca Task Force and Salmon Recovery Council in WA State to align Chinook habitat conservation actions with priority Chinook populations
- PCSRF funding enhances SRKW prey availability in Puget Sound and coastal waters

Hatcheries

- Exploring adjustments to hatchery programs to benefit the SRKWs while still protecting vulnerable salmon and steelhead populations



Salmon Recovery

Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force

- To generate quantitative abundance goals for listed/unlisted stocks to address long-term conservation and harvest aspirations
- 28 diverse members - states, tribes, and stakeholders
- Provisional goals being shared regionally this summer; report January 2019
- Will extend work to further explore and refine goals using scenario planning

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

- Since 2000, awarded average of \$75M annually to implement more than 13,200 projects
- Restored and protected over 1M acres and opened over 10,500 miles of streams



Reintroductions and Fish Passage

Puget Sound: Passage projects moving forward for Mud Mountain dam and Howard Hansen Dam

Willamette River: The Corps of Engineers is holding workshops on passage at Detroit Lake/North Santiam River

California: Reintroduction of winter-run Chinook to Battle Creek. Active reintroduction discussions occurring in McCloud and Yuba rivers.

White abalone reintroduction planned within 4 years



Photos USFWS

Pinniped Predation

- Continued high predation on Columbia River- especially high predation levels for Willamette Steelhead
- Willamette River removal authorization request from Oregon currently under review
- Proposed legislation has received a lot of discussion.
- Ongoing predation issue at Hood Canal floating bridge



Aquaculture



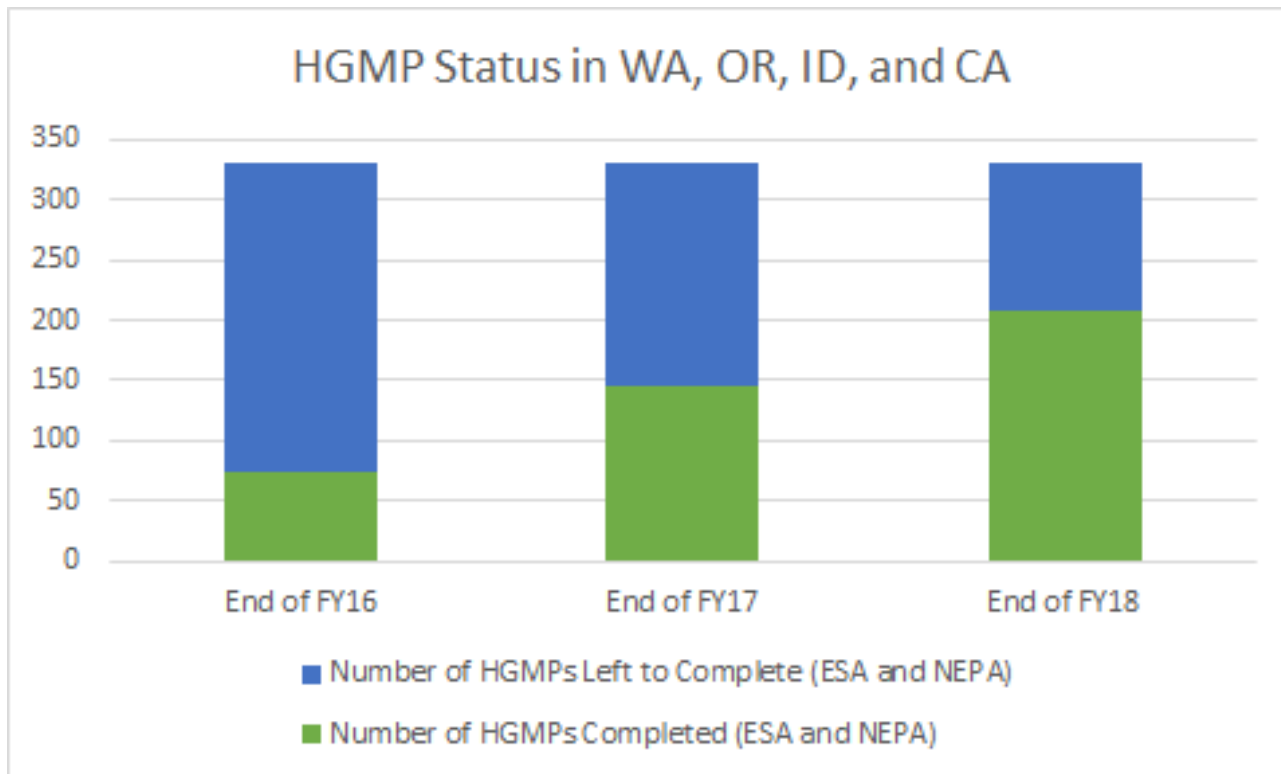
- White abalone captive broodstock – one of NMFS Species in the Spotlight
- Salmon conservation programs – CA central coast coho, Sacramento winter run Chinook
- Shellfish – implementation of a Biological Opinion for shellfish farming in Washington
- Pacific Ocean AquaFarms Offshore Project: New investors, new name – assisting NOAA HQ with NEPA related work on permitting



Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans

Completed ESA section 7 consultations on 90 HGMPs in FY18, including all of the programs contained in *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement

Significant progress on backlog in recent years



Fisheries Management

Sustain and Increase Fishing Opportunities

- Successful rebuilding of groundfish stocks leading to new harvest opportunities
- Opened new areas for recreational fishing off OR
- Extended recreational seasons and more liberal depth restrictions for 2019 and 2020
- More lingcod opportunities for commercial and recreational fishermen off WA and OR
- Streamlining regulations for 2019 to provide more flexibility to vessels targeting midwater rockfish
- HMS EFPs to test gears in US EEZ that sustainably target swordfish

Electronic Monitoring

- Final rule for EM program including whiting and fixed gear vessel
- Developing proposed rule for EM on bottom trawl and non-whiting midwater trawl vessels

Fishery Disasters Update

- In June 2018, Secretary Ross allocated \$200M in fishery disaster assistance, including \$119M for affected West Coast/Alaska fisheries
- Spending plans in the form of cooperative agreements/grants are being developed between PSMFC and the recipients
- 15 additional requests for fishery disaster assistance on the West Coast and decisions on these requests by Secretary Ross are pending



Federal Tribal Treaty and Trust Obligations

- The US v OR parties completed a new 10-year Agreement
- Working on a new long-term plan for Puget Sound fisheries with WA and tribal co-managers
- Co-chair of the Federal agency response to the tribal Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative

International Agreements

Pacific Salmon Treaty

- Renegotiating 5 of the 6 annexes of the Treaty
- Key challenges for Puget Sound Chinook and SRKWs
- The US and Canada have now reached an agreement in principle and are in the process of submitting that to their governments for review and approval

IATTC

- 93rd Meeting of the IATTC in late August - rebuilding pacific bluefin and observer safety concerns are top U.S. priorities

Pacific Whiting Treaty

- Whiting stock at high levels past two years
- Fishing is good in US and Canada; a promising start in the Makah fishery this year
- Starting a Management Strategy Evaluation process; draft results in Summer 2019

Columbia River treaty

- NMFS has the lead for the Ecosystem components of the negotiation

Thank You

