

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) was given a briefing on the Commission review draft of the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) at its April 25, 2014 meeting. At that meeting the Commission was given copies of all public comments that had been received by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) on the public draft and Commission draft and heard testimony on the draft plan. The CMP serves as a State of Oregon Conservation Plan consistent with requirements of Oregon's Native Fish Conservation Policy (NFCP).

The final draft of the CMP, and associated angling regulations, is being presented at the June 5-6, 2014 Commission meeting for review and approval. Administrative rules to implement the CMP and revise existing basin and species plan administrative rules are also presented for adoption by the Commission.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

There has been extensive public involvement in the development of the CMP. This involvement has been provided through:

- A website (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/coastal_multispecies.asp).
- An e-mail distribution list.
- Four Stakeholder Teams that helped develop consensus management actions.
- A Habitat Technical Work Group that provided feedback on the habitat approach of the CMP.
- Science review by the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team.
- Public and angler opinion surveys conducted by OSU.
- A series of six public open houses held on the coast and in the Willamette Valley.
- A public written comment period.
- Use of a professional facilitator to manage the public process.
- Numerous meetings with individuals and organizations.
- Public testimony prior to and at the April 25, 2014 Commission briefing.

In addition, public review and comment on the final or Commission draft of the CMP will be accepted prior to, and during, the June 5-6, 2014 Commission meeting, when the CMP will be presented to the Commission for final approval as a state conservation and management plan.

ISSUE 1

APPROVAL OF CMP

ANALYSIS

The CMP is the State of Oregon's working document that describes the status and identifies management actions that the Department will implement for the conservation and utilization of salmon, steelhead and trout along most of the Oregon coast. The CMP is consistent with associated administrative rules (Issues 2 and 3), and the Commission is asked to approve the CMP as the appropriate way to implement the Commission's administrative rules. As with other conservation plans approved by the Commission, the CMP

includes the detailed blueprint for implementation and adaptive management. Associated administrative rules codify the framework for this plan, generally focusing on the overarching status objectives, limiting factors, management strategies and adaptive management. Some of the strategies, program modifications, and standards in the CMP are referenced, and thereby included in, the administrative rules.

The CMP also has bearing on angling regulations that the Commission adopts. Specifically, deferred angling regulation proposals from 2012 and 2013 were considered during the CMP development process, and those that are consistent with the management direction identified in the CMP are included in the CMP. Besides the deferred angling regulation proposals, other aspects of harvest management are included in the CMP that will need to be adopted as angling regulations (e.g., bag limits associated with the sliding harvest scale for Chinook). Deferred regulations and harvest management identified in the CMP that will need to be adopted into angling regulations are primarily contained in Tables 17, 18, and 19 and the action to annually return daily licenses, combined angling tags, and hatchery harvest tags (Attachment 4). The Department will bring these angling regulations to the Commission for adoption into rule when statewide angling regulations are adopted annually, and will note those regulations specifically associated with the approved CMP. The next scheduled angling regulation adoption is in August 2014.

The CMP was modified slightly after the April 25, 2014 Commission meeting in North Bend. The revisions made to the plan and presented in the final draft (Attachment 3) include correcting typographical errors, removing language indicative of a draft plan under development, providing clarification on the CMP's consistency with the NFCP, aligning management strategies in the plan with those proposed for the administrative rules (see Issue 2), clarifying a few details, and updating one of the proposed angling "deadlines" in Table 19. The deadline change is the only substantive change to management actions and revises the proposed Siletz River salmon deadline from being closed above Illahee Park with several spawning closures downstream to Ojalla Bridge to being closed above Ojalla Bridge from August 1 through October 6 and above Illahee Park from October 7 through December 31 (note that the Siletz River is closed for salmon from January 1 through March 31 and closed above Moonshine Park from April 1 through July 31). This change from the April draft is to simplify the regulation and its enforcement and provide some additional conservation of earlier spawning fall Chinook.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the CMP
2. Modify and approve the CMP
3. Status Quo

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

ISSUE 2**ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CMP****ANALYSIS**

The proposed administrative rules for the CMP (OAR 635-500-6575; Attachment 5) were developed to codify the overarching framework for the CMP, direct how the Department implements the CMP and to ensure consistency with the NFCP. Certain portions of the CMP are incorporated by reference into the rules.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt administrative rules directing the Department's implementation of the CMP as proposed by staff in OAR 635-500-6575 of Attachment 5.
2. Modify and adopt proposed administrative rules.
3. Status Quo

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1

ISSUE 3**MODIFY ADMINISTRATIVE RULES ASSOCIATED WITH EXISTING BASIN PLANS THAT ARE COVERED BY THE CMP****ANALYSIS**

Previously the Commission has adopted Basin Fish Management Plans for several coastal basins (many in the 1990s). A number of these basin plans and species rules are for the same location and species addressed in the CMP (i.e., Coastal Chinook Management; North Umpqua River, Coos River, Tenmile Lakes, Yaquina River, Mid-Coast Small Ocean Tributary Streams, Salmon River, Siletz River, Alsea River, Yachats River, and Siuslaw River Basin Fish Management Plans; steelhead management in the South Umpqua and Nestucca rivers). Given that the CMP supersedes these old basin and species plans, edits are proposed to the administrative rules associated with them (Attachment 6). The edits primarily delete references in the OARs to the specific species and habitat issues covered in the CMP and associated rules. This action will eliminate confusion and make the management of coastal salmon, steelhead and trout consistent with the CMP and the NFCP.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt administrative rules updating existing basin plans that overlap with the CMP as proposed by staff in Attachment 6.
2. Modify and adopt proposed administrative rules.
3. Status Quo

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1

DRAFT MOTION

I move to approve the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan, adopt the Oregon Administrative Rule for the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan as proposed by staff in Attachment 5 and adopt revisions to existing Oregon Administrative Rules for Species Management and Basin Plans as proposed by staff in Attachment 6.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Administrative Rules will be effective when filed with the Secretary of State.