

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

Several overarching policies are in place to guide the management of fish and wildlife resources in Oregon, including the Food Fish Management, Wildlife Management, and Native Fish Conservation policies. Specific to marine resources, the Oregon Nearshore Strategy highlights priority marine habitats and species, marine resource management goals and needs, and key areas for further research. These policies provide guidance for fisheries management but do not serve as Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). FMPs are useful to ensure coordination and transparency of management approaches.

While at the federal level there are FMPs in place for many marine fisheries, we do not currently have state level FMPs that document the management measures specific to Oregon or the fishery resources for which there is no federal FMP.

The development and adoption of Marine Fishery Management Plans (MFMPs) will implement the policies listed above in a coordinated, cohesive, and transparent way for specific marine resources. The Marine Fishery Management Plan Framework (Framework) was developed to aid Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff who are responsible for the development of MFMPs. This exhibit is an informational briefing on the Framework and plans for development of MFMPs.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Department staff met with the marine Sport Advisory Committee and Commercial Nearshore Committee in a joint meeting on March 30, 2011 to discuss the development of the Marine Fishery Management Plan Framework.

A technical review was conducted in August and September 2014. Representatives of industry, public, academia, and management partners provided comments and suggested edits to the document.

ISSUE 1

EXISTING POLICIES THAT GUIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND THE MARINE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK AND GOALS

ANALYSIS

The marine environment along the Oregon coast provides many opportunities for commercial and recreational use that bring substantial economic benefits to Oregon. The harvest of living marine resources in fisheries comprises a significant portion of these activities. Oregon manages all the state's marine fishery resources, some in conjunction with international and/or federal management, while other species or species complexes are entirely under state management. While state management activities are consistent with our policies and laws, the management strategies are not formally documented in FMPs. FMPs provide stock and fishery information, as well as management measures and approaches, and provide transparency about the policies being implemented for these

public trust resources.

Existing Policies that Guide Fisheries Management

While there are a number of Oregon statutes and rules that guide marine resource management in the state, there are four policies that are central to our management approach.

It is Oregon policy that wildlife, which includes fish and shellfish, shall be managed to prevent serious depletion of any indigenous species and to provide the optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations of the citizens of the state. The Wildlife Management Policy was codified into Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) in 1973 (ORS 496.012). Nothing in Oregon's wildlife laws is intended to affect the provisions of the state's commercial fishing laws.

Food fish are defined as all fish, shellfish and all other animals living intertidally on the bottom over which the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) has jurisdiction. It is Oregon policy that food fish shall be managed to provide the optimum economic, commercial, recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations of the citizens of this state. This policy was codified into Oregon law with the creation of the Food Fish Management Policy in 1975 (ORS 506.109).

Oregon's Native Fish Conservation Policy (NFCP) implements the Food Fish and Wildlife Policies through the development of conservation plans. Conservation plans are based on the concept that locally adapted populations provide the best foundation for maintaining and restoring sustainable, naturally-produced native fish populations. The NFCP was adopted into Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) in 2003 (OAR 635-007-0502 through 635-007-0509) and, while written with a focus on inland and anadromous populations, is intended to ensure the conservation and recovery of all indigenous fish in marine and inland waters.

Finally, The Oregon Nearshore Strategy (ONS) (www.dfw.state.or.us/mrp/nearshore/index.asp) was adopted by the Commission in 2005 as a part of the larger Oregon Conservation Strategy. The ONS provides recommendations for the Department's management of nearshore fish and wildlife, broadening from the NFCP's focus on inland and anadromous species to nearshore marine resources. The ONS identifies opportunities for public and/or private actions and partnerships that can contribute to the sustainable use of Oregon's marine resources but does not specify conservation or management plans or approaches. The priorities established in the ONS guide the Department's strategic investment of time and funding for management of marine resources.

At the January 9, 2015 meeting the Commission will also be briefed on updates to the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the ONS. The ONS has been a valuable tool for discussing needs and priorities for the progress of nearshore resource management and research. Marine Program staff will

be working with technical and stakeholder partners over the next five months to prepare the public comment draft for release in the late spring, in conjunction with the OCS public comment draft.

The Marine Fishery Management Plan Framework

To apply the guiding principles of the NFCP for marine species and fisheries, Department staff created the Marine Fishery Management Plan Framework (Framework; Attachment 2). The purpose of the Framework is to guide fishery managers in the development of balanced Marine Fishery Management Plans (MFMPs) intended to optimize commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, new fisheries, and other harvest of marine resources while maintaining ecosystem integrity. The Framework is not intended to create policy; rather, it describes the issues and information that fishery managers should consider when building a MFMP, so that the management approach is comprehensively documented. The Framework establishes the goals and the scope of marine fishery resources for which state MFMPs should be developed, articulates the policies and guidelines currently applied in the management of marine fisheries, and places MFMPs into the context of existing international, federal, and state fisheries management. Oregon's MFMPs will incorporate the NFCP's guiding principles, including the guidelines for the content of conservation plans. Development of MFMPs is designed to promote the goals of the NFCP and fulfill the need for conservation plans when they are warranted. Conservation plans are implemented under the NFCP for anadromous salmonid stocks as needed, so MFMPs will not be developed for salmonids.

In addition to implementation of the NFCP, the creation of the Framework and associated MFMPs implement several of the sixteen recommended Department actions presented in the Oregon Nearshore Strategy. These recommendations address priority marine issues that are in need of immediate or timely attention, are feasible to implement given appropriate funding, and have received some level of public support. Recommendations 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 will be partially or entirely addressed through the creation of MFMPs by the development of resource analyses and the plans themselves, and specifying areas for future work in research, monitoring, stock assessment, and management plans for priority species.

Six main goals for MFMPs developed under this Framework have been identified and are based on Oregon statutes, rules, and the major state policies discussed above. These goals may evolve over time and will be updated as needed. Individual MFMPs developed under this Framework will evaluate fishery resources and articulate management strategies necessary for achieving these goals.

- 1. Provide for access to marine resources for present and future generations*
- 2. Minimize bycatch, incidental catch, and mortality related to fishery interactions with non-target marine organisms*

3. *Coordinate the management of commercial and recreational fisheries*
4. *Minimize complexity of management*
5. *Consider the socioeconomic needs of local communities, including both consumptive and non-consumptive uses and values*
6. *Involve the public in the fisheries management process*

The Framework identifies a number of important considerations and challenges that managers should take into account when developing MFMPs. The Framework sets the structure for the components of MFMPs, Resource Analyses and Harvest Management Strategies, which provide the biological, ecological, and socio-economic context for managing marine fisheries and identifies some of the tools useful for analysis and management. Finally, the Framework establishes the process for developing, updating, reviewing, and revising MFMPs.

The Framework for MFMPs is designed to provide a flexible, consistent and transparent approach to managing Oregon’s marine fishery resources for the long-term sustainable use and enjoyment of present and future generations of Oregonians. It is based on sound existing policies, rules, and regulations and will afford the Department the ability to document current fisheries and resources, evaluate changes to management structures, and conduct proper planning in the event a new fishery arises.

OPTIONS

Not applicable

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Not applicable

DRAFT MOTION	Not applicable
EFFECTIVE DATE	Not applicable