



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

The *Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP)* was approved by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in 2014 as the State of Oregon’s conservation and management plan for Chinook salmon, spring Chinook salmon, chum salmon, winter steelhead, summer steelhead, and cutthroat trout Species Management Units (SMUs) along the Oregon Coast from the Necanicum River to the Elk River (OAR 635-500-6775). The purpose of the CMP is to ensure the continued viability and conservation of the SMUs covered by the plan and to achieve a desired status that provides substantial ecological and societal benefits. The plan focuses on the long-term conservation of naturally-produced (i.e., wild) salmon, steelhead and trout, but also provides the framework for how hatchery programs and fisheries will be managed.

The CMP was developed with extensive engagement and input from stakeholders, tribes, and the public at large. It is unique among conservation plans developed by ODFW under Oregon’s Native Fish Conservation Policy (NFCP) in that it addresses both conservation and utilization of six SMUs, none of which are listed under the ESA. CMP implementation is intended to be dynamic, with modifications over time in response to learning from monitoring data and implementation experience. To document and inform progress toward desired status and adaptive management, the plan calls for annual reporting through the completion of implementation updates (Attachments 2 and 3), *Hatchery Program Summaries* (Attachment 4), and *Wild Fish Monitoring Summaries* (Attachment 5). The plan also calls for re-assessment of the status of populations and SMUs every 12 years following plan approval, which will first occur with data collected through 2026.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

In an on-going basis since plan approval, ODFW has actively interacted and worked with partners, stakeholders, members of the public, other agencies, and tribes to implement the CMP.

The public will also have an opportunity to provide formal comment on CMP implementation as part of this Commission presentation process.

### ISSUE 1

## COASTAL MULTI-SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

### ANALYSIS

To meet plan goals, which include attaining desired status for plan populations and SMUs, improving fishing opportunity, and reducing risk from climate change, the CMP identified strategies and actions in four management categories: Hatchery Fish, Harvest, Predation, and Habitat. **Hatchery Fish** actions identified in the plan include changes in release numbers, strategies, and locations, as well as a variety of research, monitoring and adaptive management

actions to reduce risk from hatchery fish. Nearly all hatchery program changes called for in the plan have been implemented, and several key hatchery research and monitoring actions are in progress. **Harvest** actions in the plan included angling regulation changes, sliding scale harvest management for Chinook and spring Chinook salmon, and some limited additional harvest opportunity for wild steelhead in select areas. These actions have generally been implemented or are in progress, and additional adaptive management actions have been taken where needed. Many of the **Predation** actions in the plan have also been implemented, and additional actions have been taken in the Coquille Basin where predation by illegally introduced bass has emerged as a critical limiting factor for Chinook salmon. Finally, **Habitat** actions consistent with the strategies identified in the plan are occurring across the SMUs at various scales. To maximize benefits for plan species and increase climate change resilience, ODFW is coordinating internally and externally to prioritize habitat protection and restoration efforts.

The highest priority conservation goals in the CMP were to address limiting factors in the two populations found to be non-viable (Elk River fall-run Chinook and South Umpqua River spring Chinook) and to ensure that the status of chum salmon improves. *Pilot Implementation Programs*, in which ODFW proactively works to implement, support, and monitor actions in the CMP to achieve these goals, are in progress. At Elk River, ODFW has implemented a variety of actions to successfully reduce the number of hatchery Chinook salmon on the spawning grounds. For South Umpqua spring Chinook salmon, a working group was formed to identify and prioritize actions to address limiting factors for this population; ODFW has also taken actions to minimize harvest risk for South Umpqua spring Chinook salmon in response to critically low returns in recent years. For chum salmon, monitoring of adult spawner abundance in several populations is ongoing and research into critical uncertainties has begun; these research and monitoring efforts will help inform implementation of the CMP's chum restoration strategy.

Since the adoption of the CMP in 2014, coastal salmon and steelhead have experienced significant challenges: an extreme drought event (2015), declines in ocean productivity, anomalous warm ocean temperatures, and new in-basin limitations. Although not ideal situations, this period has demonstrated the capacity for meaningful adaptive management informed by monitoring. Not only have the hatchery, harvest, predation, and habitat actions identified in the plan been implemented, but additional actions in these management areas have also been implemented to ensure plan goals are met. This is exactly what the plan envisioned in order to be able to be responsive to variable and changing conditions, especially climate and ocean changes. Populations generally appear to be rebounding as ocean conditions improve, and there will be continued work in areas identified as on-going concerns. Details about actions, adaptive management, and monitoring results are contained in Attachments 2-5.

## OPTIONS

1. NA

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. NA

**DRAFT MOTION:**

NA

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** NA