



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NOAA Seeks Public Input on Draft Recovery Plan for Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Salmon

NOAA's Fisheries Service published in the *Federal Register* a draft recovery plan for threatened coho salmon Northern California and Southern Oregon's rivers and streams, and invited the public to comment on the plan.

"This draft recovery plan is the blueprint for rebuilding coho salmon species in the watersheds of Southern Oregon and Northern California," said Irma Lagomarsino, NOAA Fisheries Service supervisor for Northern California. "What final design and structure it takes will be in large part up to the input we receive from the local community."

Coho salmon were once abundant in the rivers and streams from Cape Blanco, Oregon south to Punta Gorda, California. Habitat degradation, harvest, water diversion, and artificial propagation have added to the negative effects of natural events such as drought, floods, and poor ocean conditions, leading to their depletion. Even after being [listed as threatened](#) under the Endangered Species Act in 1997, the population has continued to decline.

The draft recovery plan is a guidance document rather than a regulation, and identifies the activities and recovery actions that could rebuild coho populations and remove the need for protection under the Endangered Species Act. The ESA requires a recovery plan be developed when a species is listed under the statute as either endangered (likely to become extinct within the foreseeable future) or threatened (likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future).

Public participation and input to the plan is essential to help ensure it succeeds in recovering and rebuilding these salmon. Draft recovery plans are always made public, and public comments are solicited and considered before the plan is finalized.

Electronic copies of the Draft Plan are available at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/recovery> or on a CD by contacting Cynthia Anderson by phone at (707) 825-5162 or by sending an email with "CD ROM request for SONCC coho salmon draft recovery plan" to cynthia.anderson@noaa.gov.

Public comment and information relevant to this recovery plan may be submitted before 5:00 p.m. on March 5, 2012, by any of the methods listed below, or at forthcoming public meetings. Locations, dates, and times of the planned public meetings will be posted at the above website that information is available.

Email:

SONCC.Recovery@noaa.gov (Files must be less than 5 megabytes)

Mail:

Julie Weeder

National Marine Fisheries Service
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521
Attn: Recovery Coordinator/SONCC Coho Salmon Public Draft Recovery Plan Comments

Fax:

(707) 825-4840

Please include on the fax cover page: "Attn: Recovery Coordinator/SONCC Coho Salmon Public Draft Recovery Plan Comments."

Hand-delivered (*From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except federal holidays*):

National Marine Fisheries Service

1655 Heindon Road

Arcata, CA 95521

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NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).