

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Public Draft SONCC Coho Salmon Recovery Plan

### 1. How much will this draft recovery plan cost to implement?

The overall cost of achieving delisting of SONCC coho salmon by implementation of the recovery actions identified in the Plan is estimated at approximately \$3.6 billion over at least 25 years. This is a very rough estimate based on many assumptions. While a significant investment, the recovery of SONCC coho salmon will concurrently result in a wide array of economic, societal and ecosystem benefits. Many of the actions identified are designed to improve watershed-wide processes which benefit many native species of plants and animals (including other state and federally protected species) by restoring ecosystem functions. Once SONCC coho salmon are delisted, the regulatory burden associated with the Endangered Species Act will be removed.

### 2. Who will pay for this plan?

The plan contains no required expenditures, since it is not a regulatory document. Anyone can pay for the recovery actions described in the plan.

### 3. How does this draft recovery plan relate to the Klamath Settlement Agreements?

The draft recovery plan has no legal or regulatory effect on the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA) or Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA). The draft plan does contain scientific information that could be considered in implementation of those agreements, including the process that the Secretary of the Interior is undertaking under the KHSA to determine whether removal of the four Lower Klamath River dams will advance the restoration of salmonid fisheries of the Klamath Basin, including coho salmon.

In addition, the KBRA provides for development of a Fisheries Restoration Plan and Fisheries Monitoring Plan for fish species in the Klamath Basin, including coho salmon. The draft recovery plan contains scientific information and recommends recovery actions that could be considered in those plans.

Furthermore, the draft recovery plan for SONCC coho salmon includes a recovery action to improve access to habitat above Iron Gate Dam consistent with the KHSA either by removing the four lower Klamath River dams under the KHSA if the Secretarial Determination under the KHSA is affirmative or, if the Secretarial Determination is negative or the KHSA is terminated for any other reason and the Klamath Hydroelectric Project reverts to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's relicensing proceedings for that project, by implementing the mandatory fishway prescriptions for volitional fish passage that NMFS has filed in those proceedings.

### 4. Is part of the draft recovery plan to tear down the Klamath dams?

The draft recovery plan for SONCC coho salmon does include a recovery action to improve access to habitat above Iron Gate Dam consistent with the KHSA either by removing the four lower Klamath River dams under the KHSA if the Secretarial Determination under the KHSA is affirmative or, if the Secretarial Determination is negative or the KHSA is terminated for any other reason and the Klamath Hydroelectric Project reverts to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's relicensing proceedings for

that project, by implementing the mandatory fishway prescriptions for volitional fish passage that NMFS has filed in those proceedings

**5. Will the draft recovery plan affect the delisting petition for coho salmon in the Klamath River?**

No. The draft recovery plan has no affect on the delisting petition for coho salmon on the Klamath River.

**6. How will the draft recovery plan affect landowners?**

The draft recovery plan does not compel or mandate any federal, state, or tribal entity, or any private citizen, to take any action. Instead, the plan provides landowners with an understanding of what coho salmon need, and how they can manage their land to help restore coho salmon and their habitat. The plan could also be used to help landowners compete for grant funds to improve their land in ways that benefit coho salmon.

**7. I don't understand, if this is a non-regulatory and voluntary document, how does it help SONCC coho salmon recover?**

The plan provides a roadmap to recovery which describes what should be done and where, and how we'll know when coho salmon are recovered so they can be delisted. These elements have not all been present in any other plan for this species before now. Extensive restoration has occurred up to this point. The plan helps to align future efforts so that limited funds can be wisely invested and coho recovery will occur as quickly as possible.

**8. Will the draft recovery plan take water from farmers for fish?**

No, the plan won't take water because it is non-regulatory. The plan recognizes that, in some areas, coho salmon need more water. This recognition could lead agencies or individuals to change water management plans.

**9. How will this draft plan affect my city or town? Will it bring more jobs? More federal funds?**

The plan will provide the residents of cities and towns with a roadmap to restore coho salmon to their area. The plan recommends habitat restoration occur in most watersheds, and if this restoration is carried out it will provide jobs. The plan will help watersheds compete for restoration funds, including federal funds.

**10. Will this plan make it harder to develop land?**

The plan is non-regulatory, so it will not directly affect building codes. The plan recommends land use changes in some areas. This recommendation could lead agencies or individuals to change how land is used.

**11. Is NMFS asking for public input on this draft recovery plan?**

Yes. A 60-day public comment period has been established (January 5 – March 5, 2012). In addition, five public meetings are planned. NMFS will consider substantive comments received during this period when revising the plan before finalizing it.