
NEWS RELEASE



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
For more information call Ed Bowles (503) 947-6206
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For Immediate Release

Thursday, Dec. 9, 2004

Science team to present methods to assess coastal coho population health

SALEM – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife scientists will present biological measures against which the health of Oregon coastal coho populations will be gauged at a meeting of the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team next week. The IMST advises the state on matters related to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

The presentation includes an explanation of how the science team developed the biological criteria and will apply them to assess the status of coastal coho. The criteria include abundance, productivity, persistence and distribution. In addition, the presentation will cover factors limiting coastal coho populations and conservation efforts to halt and reverse their decline.

The presentation will be made during the IMST's monthly meeting in Richardson Hall, Room 313, at Oregon State University, on Tuesday, Dec. 14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. See the complete agenda at www.fsl.orst.edu/imst. Brief public comments, but not testimonies, will be accepted in 15-minute blocks at noon and at 4:45 p.m. Written testimonies can be submitted to the IMST at any time by sending them to imst@fsl.orst.edu or IMST c/o Kathy Maas-Hebner, Department of Forest Science, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331.

The State of Oregon and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) began a collaborative project earlier this year to address the conservation of coastal coho. As part of that project, a number of state agencies are contributing to the Coastal Coho Assessment. Their objectives are to 1) assess actions under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds to conserve and rebuild coastal coho populations; 2) provide information for NOAA Fisheries' federal Endangered Species Act listing determination; 3) identify mechanisms under the ESA for legal protection against "take" liability for landowners who voluntarily conserve or enhance habitat; and 4) provide a blueprint for developing a recovery plan. More information on the Coastal Coho Project can be found at <http://www.oregon-plan.org/cohoproject/index.html>.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided as needed for individuals requesting assistive hearing devices, sign language interpreters or large-print materials. Individuals needing these types of accommodations may call Glenda Serpa at 541-737-6551 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Campus parking information is available at <http://oregonstate.edu/> or by calling Parking Services at 541-737-2583.

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