

IDENTIFICATION OF STOCKS NOT MEETING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Each year, exclusive of stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Salmon Technical Team (STT) must identify any of the natural salmon stocks with conservation objectives in Table 3-1 of the salmon FMP that have failed to meet their conservation objective in each of the past three years. For any stock so identified that does not meet the exception criteria, an Overfishing Concern is triggered. An Overfishing Concern requires the Council direct the STT and Habitat Committee (HC) to work with state and tribal fishery managers to complete an assessment of the cause of the conservation shortfalls and provide recommendations to the Council for stock recovery. Based on those recommendations, the Council must take actions within one year of an identified concern to prevent overfishing and begin rebuilding the stock.

In the case of natural stocks which have failed to achieve their conservation objective in each of the past three years, but are exceptions under the salmon FMP overfishing criteria, the STT, HC, and Council should: (1) confirm that harvest impacts in Council fisheries continue to be less than five percent, (2) identify the probable cause of the current stock depression, (3) continue to monitor the status of the stocks, and (4) advocate measures to improve stock productivity.

The salmon FMP states that any stock projected to fall short of its conservation objective triggers a Conservation Alert. A Conservation Alert requires the Council to notify pertinent fishery and habitat managers, request the cause be identified (if possible), and to close salmon fisheries within Council jurisdiction that impact the stock. If the stock in question has not met its conservation objective in the previous two years, the Council shall request the pertinent state and tribal managers to complete a formal assessment of the primary factors leading to the shortfalls and report their conclusions and recommendations to the Council no later than the March meeting prior to the next salmon season.

Table C-1 (Agenda Item C.1.a, Attachment 1) has been extracted from the STT's Preseason Report I and updated with any more recently available information. It indicates that no stock subject to the Overfishing Criteria has failed to achieve its conservation objective in each of the three most recent years; however, Klamath River Fall chinook did not meet the conservation objective in the most recent year assessed (2004). Queets River spring/summer chinook have not met their conservation objectives in the most recent two years assessed (2003, 2004), and Quillayute spring/summer chinook have not met their conservation objective in the most recent year assessed (2004). However, these latter two stocks are exceptions under the Overfishing Concern criteria by virtue of historical harvest impacts of less than five percent in Council-managed ocean salmon fisheries. No FMP stocks are projected to fall short of conservation objectives in 2005.

Council Action:

1. Identify naturally spawning stocks failing to meet their conservation objectives (exclusive of stocks listed under the ESA).
2. Identify naturally spawning stocks projected to not meet their conservation objectives in 2005 (exclusive of stocks listed under the ESA).
3. Confirm implementation of the actions required by the Council's Overfishing Concern and Conservation Alert procedures in the salmon FMP. (For stocks that are exceptions to the Overfishing Concerns, these actions involve confirming continued low impacts by Council fisheries, identifying the probable cause of the depression, monitoring the status of the stocks, and advocating measures to improve stock productivity.)

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.1.a, Attachment 1: Table C-1.
2. Agenda Item C.1.b, Supplemental STT Report: Report of the Salmon Technical Team

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Report of the Salmon Technical Team (STT)
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Identify Any Actions Necessary Under the Council Overfishing Review Procedure

Chuck Tracy
Dell Simmons

PFMC
03/18/05

TABLE C-1. Achievement of **conservation objectives** for natural stocks listed in Table 3-1 of the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan. Bolded numbers indicate a failure to meet the conservation objective. Stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act are not included. (Page 1 of 2)

Stock and Conservation Objective (thousands of spawners; spawners per mile; impact or replacement rate)	Observed or Projected Conservation Achievement (postseason estimates of thousands of spawners or spawners per mile; preseason or postseason impact or replacement rate)										Overfishing Criteria		
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 ^{a/}	2005 ^{b/}	Alert ^{c/}	Concern ^{d/}	Exception ^{e/}	
CHINOOK													
Sacramento River Fall 122.0 - 180.0 adult spawners	342.9	238.1	386.8	413.8	544.9	775.5	521.2	283.1	>949.0	No	No	No	
Klamath River Fall - no less than 35.0 adult natural spawners	46.1	42.5	18.5	82.7	77.8	65.6	87.1	24.2	35.0	No	No	No	
Southern, Central and Northern Oregon Coast Spring and Fall No less than 60 adult spawners/mile ^{f/}	93.3	87.7	104.4	76.4	165.2	222.4	235.9	175.5	>60.0	No	No	No	
Upper Columbia River Bright Fall 43.5 adults over McNary Dam Council area base period impacts <4%	67.1	63.8	78.4	66.4	110.5	141.6	173.7	168.9	>43.5	No	No	Exp. Rate	
Columbia River Summer Chinook 80.0 to 90.0 adults over Bonneville Dam Council area base period impacts <2%	27.9	21.4	26.2	30.6	76.2	127.4	114.8	>80.0	>80.0	No	No	Exp. Rate	
In 2004 state and tribal co-managers changed the stock definition from chinook passing Bonneville Dam after May 31 to chinook passing Bonneville Dam after June 14, and the goal changed to 29,000 at the river mouth	12.3	18.3	16.3	22.3	23.2	54.9	92.8	83.1	65.4	No	No	Exp. Rate	
Grays Harbor Fall - 14.6 adult spawners (MSP)	18.2	12.5	10.4	9.3	9.5	11.3	19.4	NA ^{g/}	NA ^{g/}	No	No	Exp. Rate	
Grays Harbor Spring - 1.4 adult spawners	4.5	2.3	1.3	2.9	2.9	2.6	1.9	NA ^{g/}	NA ^{g/}	No	No	Exp. Rate	
Queets Fall - no less than 2.5 adult spawners (MSY)	2.5	4.0	1.9	3.6	2.9	1.9	5.0	3.5	NA ^{g/}	No	No	Exp. Rate	
Queets Spring/Summer - no less than 0.7 adult spawners	0.54	0.49	0.37	0.25	0.55	0.74	0.19	0.60	NA ^{g/}	Limited ^{h/}	No	Exp. Rate	
Hoh Fall - no less than 1.2 adult spawners (MSY)	1.8	4.3	1.9	1.7	2.6	4.4	1.6	1.8	NA ^{g/}	No	No	Exp. Rate	
Hoh Spring/Summer - no less than 0.9 adult spawners	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.5	1.2	2.5	1.2	1.8	NA ^{g/}	No	No	Exp. Rate	
Quillayute Fall - no less than 3.0 adult spawners (MSY)	5.4	6.8	3.3	3.7	5.1	6.1	7.4	3.6	NA ^{g/}	No	No	Exp. Rate	
Quillayute Spring/Summer - 1.2 adult spawners (MSY)	0.9	1.6	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.2	0.7	NA ^{g/}	Limited ^{h/}	No	Exp. Rate	
COHO													
Grays Harbor - 35.4 adult spawners (MSP)	22.5	35.6	33.3	37.1	79.1	110.7	107.3	64.7	>35.4	No	No	No	
Queets - 5.8 to 14.5 adult spawners (MSY range) Includes supplemental adults	1.9	5.5	5.3	8.6	24.9	14.8	9.3	10.8	>5.8	No	No	No	
Hoh - 2.0 to 5.0 adult spawners (MSY range)	1.4	4.4	4.6	6.8	10.8	9.0	6.3	2.1	>2.0	No	No	No	

TABLE C-1. Achievement of **conservation objectives** for natural stocks listed in Table 3-1 of the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan. Bolded numbers indicate a failure to meet the conservation objective. Stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act are not included. (Page 2 of 2)

Stock and Conservation Objective (thousands of spawners; spawners per mile; impact or replacement rate)	Observed or Projected Conservation Achievement (postseason estimates of thousands of spawners or spawners per mile; preseason or postseason impact or replacement rate)										Overfishing Criteria		
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 ^{a/}	2005 ^{b/}	Alert ^{c/}	Concern ^{d/}	Exception ^{e/}	
Quillayute Fall - 6.3 to 15.8 adult spawners (MSY range)	4.6	13.9	9.4	13.3	18.9	23.0	14.8	10.7	>6.3	No	No	No	
Western Strait of Juan de Fuca - 11.9 adult spawners	4.1	15.1	8.0	16.9	34.3	20.6	12.4	>11.9	>11.9	No	No	No	
Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca - 0.95 adult spawners	1.30	1.94	1.36	2.11	2.6	2.5	2.9	>0.95	>0.95	No	No	No	
Hood Canal - 21.5 adult spawners (MSP)	95.8	101.1	16.6	27.3	94.7	69.3	170.3	>21.5	>21.5	No	No	No	
Skagit - 30.0 adult spawners (MSP)	23.4	73.7	27.3	62.9	87.0	56.0	69.2	>30.0	>30.0	No	No	No	
Stillaguamish - 17.0 adult spawners (MSP)	10.9	27.3	7.0	28.3	73.6	27.3	45.7	59.2	>17.0	No	No	No	
Snohomish - 70.0 adult spawners (MSP)	58.2	150.1	61.3	94.2	261.8	161.6	182.7	>70.0	>70.0	No	No	No	

a/ Preliminary data.

b/ Preliminary approximations based on preseason abundance projections and either preseason regulation options adopted at the March 2005 Council meeting, or 2004 regulations or season structures.

c/ **Conservation Alert** - triggered during the annual preseason process if a natural stock or stock complex, listed in Table 3-1 of the salmon FMP, is projected to fall short of its conservation objective (MSY, MSY proxy, MSP, or floor in the case of some harvest rate objectives [e.g., 35,000 natural Klamath River fall chinook spawners]).

Actions for Stocks that are not Exceptions (beginning in 2001) - The Council will close salmon fisheries within its jurisdiction which impact the stocks, except in the case of Washington coastal and Puget Sound salmon stocks and fisheries managed under U.S. District Court orders. In these cases, the Council may allow fisheries which meet annual spawner targets developed through relevant U.S. v. Washington, Hoh v. Baldrige, and subsequent U.S. District Court ordered processes and plans, that may vary from the MSY or MSP conservation objectives. For all natural stocks that meet the conservation alert criteria, the Council will notify pertinent fishery and habitat managers, advising that the stock may be temporarily depressed or approaching an overfishing concern (depending on its recent conservation status), and request state and tribal fishery managers identify the probable causes, if known. If the stock in question has not met its conservation objective in the previous two years, the Council will request state and tribal managers to do a formal assessment of the primary factors leading to the shortfalls and report their conclusions and recommendations to the Council no later than the March meeting prior to the next salmon season.

d/ **Overfishing concern** - triggered if, in three consecutive years, the postseason estimates indicate a natural stock, listed in Table 3-1 of the salmon FMP, has fallen short of its conservation objective (MSY, MSP, or spawner floor as noted for some harvest rate objectives).

Actions required for Stocks that are not Exceptions - Within one year, the STT to recommend and the Council to adopt management measures to end the overfishing concern and recover the stock in as short a time as possible, preferably within ten years or less. The HC to provide recommendations for habitat restoration and enhancement measures within a suitable time frame.

e/ **Exception** - strict application of the conservation alert and overfishing criteria and subsequent Council actions do not apply for (1) hatchery stocks, (2) natural stocks with a cumulative adult equivalent exploitation rate limited to less than 5% in ocean fisheries under Council jurisdiction during the FRAM base periods, and (3) stocks listed under the ESA.

Conservation Alert and Overfishing Concern Actions for Natural Stocks that are Exceptions (those with exploitation rates limited to less than 5% in base period Council-area ocean fisheries) - Use the expertise of STT and HC to confirm negligible impacts of proposed Council fisheries, identify factors which have led to the decline or low abundance (e.g., fishery impacts outside Council jurisdiction, or degradation or loss of essential fish habitat) and monitor abundance trends and total harvest impact levels. Council action will focus on advocating measures to improve stock productivity, such as reduced interceptions in non-Council managed fisheries, and improvements in spawning and rearing habitat, fish passage, flows, and other factors affecting overall stock survival.

f/ Based on the sum of south/local and north migrating spawners per mile weighted by the total number of miles surveyed for each of the two components (2.2 miles for south/local and 7.5 miles for northern stocks).

g/ Preseason forecasts are not available for Washington coastal chinook stocks.