

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
AMENDMENT 15 (DE MINIMIS FISHERIES)

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) met for 2 hours with Mr. L.B. Boydston to discuss the alternatives described in Table 1 of the draft report "Pacific Coast Salmon Plan Amendment 15: An Initiative to Provide for *De Minimis* Fishing Opportunity". The STT had no comments on the merits of the four proposed alternatives *per se*. Instead, the STT focused its comments on the computer simulations being proposed to analyze the alternative. Because these variables affect how well the simulations mimic the real world, the STT discussed:

1. Annual variation in recruitment from spawners (i.e. the Ricker Curve) and early life survival rates, to include serial correlations in low production years.
2. Contribution of hatchery origin fish to the natural spawning population.
3. Productivity of hatchery origin fish relative to wild origin fish.
4. Annual variation in forecast accuracy and management precision and its effect on projected harvest and fishery escapement.
5. Annual variation in abundance of co-mingled stocks and its effect on impacts to Klamath stocks (alternately, simulate results with a low, mid-level, and high abundance of co-mingled stocks).
6. Change in fisher behavior in response to management actions, i.e. transfer of effort during a *de minimis* fishery.
7. Management actions in response to low abundance forecast including allocation among user groups/gear types.

The STT believes the proposed time frame for completing a proposed fishery management plan amendment in time for application in 2007 is extremely ambitious. There is a danger that the biological and economic assessment of proposed *de minimis* control rules will not be sufficiently developed and documented by September 2006 to serve as an adequate basis for informed public comment and administrative review. Further, the STT is concerned that the proposed process for development of the amendment does not provide an adequate opportunity for technical review.

The STT also recommends an alternative *de minimis* control rule that becomes more restrictive if the rule is applied in consecutive years or if the impact limit established for the previous year is exceeded.