The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received a presentation from Mr. Ray Beamesderfer regarding revisions to the Stochastic Stock Recruitment Model (SSRM) and analytical work undertaken with the revised model since the September Council meeting. The Committee commends the analytical team for the significant additional work that was accomplished, which included adding greater realism in how forecast and implementation errors interact within the annual management process, evaluating the effects on sub-stock structure, and evaluating the sensitivity of model results to changes in a suite of key model parameters.

The revised SSRM provides an adequate basis for evaluating the relative effects of the different *de minimis* fishing alternatives on Klamath River fall Chinook salmon, but the absolute scale of the predictions remains uncertain. The methodology on which the SSRM is based is comparable to the methodology used for groundfish rebuilding analyses. With regard to the hindcast analysis, the SSC does not recommend using results from this analysis to evaluate the alternatives as this method is based on overly optimistic pre-season forecasts and does not consider the full effect of changes in management strategy.

Results from the SSRM indicate small differences between the *de minimis* fishery alternatives with regard to the probability of spawning escapement below the 35,000 natural spawner floor in any year and other key metrics, including the socioeconomic criteria. Even for the status quo (the most conservative option), the model predicts that spawning escapement will be below the floor 27% of the time, suggesting that poor performance of Klamath River stocks will be a recurring problem for the Council unless in-river Klamath River productivity is improved. The *de minimis* fishery alternatives simply exacerbate the problem. The SSC notes that all three *de minimis* fishery alternatives would permit fishing to occur even if spawning escapement should fall to zero.

Regarding the economic analysis, the SSC notes that the alternatives have quite different effects in a Conservation Alert year but similar long-term average effects. The long-term analysis should show the effects of discount rates on changes in the future streams of revenues under the various alternatives. Also, the text should clarify that multiple and incompatible metrics were used to evaluate the economic effects to the different sectors (e.g., economic impacts, ex-vessel revenues, angler expenditures).

PFMC
11/15/06