

PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION (PSC) CODED-WIRE TAG
WORKING GROUP REPORT

The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) established a coded-wire tag (CWT) Working Group to develop recommendations for an action plan to correct deficiencies in data collection and reporting throughout the CWT system and to improve analysis of CWT recovery data. The Working Group reviewed the past performance of the coastwide CWT program, assessed its current status, and developed guidelines to improve the statistical basis for the future program.

The CWT Working Group identified tasks that would address the CWT-related recommendations of the PSC's CWT Expert Panel Report, which was presented to the Council in March, 2006. The highest priority was to be placed on those tasks that need immediate action. Accordingly, the initial emphasis was to identify options to address current deficiencies in the CWT program, which were identified in the first four recommendations of the CWT Expert Panel:

RECOMMENDATION 1 – Substantial improvements must be made in the CWT system to insure that the quality and reliability of collected data are consistent with the increasing demands being placed on these data by fishery managers. Areas requiring attention include quality control/quality assurance, and various sampling design issues including expansion of catch and escapement sampling in areas where little or no sampling currently takes place.

RECOMMENDATION 2 – Explicit criteria should be developed for the precision of statistics to be estimated from CWT recovery data. New guidelines for CWT release group sizes and fishery and escapement sampling rates should be based on these explicit criteria.

RECOMMENDATION 3 – We recommend that the utility of a decision-theoretic approach, intergrading cost, benefits, and risk into a formal evaluation structure be investigated as a means of prioritizing potential improvements (e.g., measures to improve CWT data – reporting, sample design, and protocol) to the CWT system. The approach should identify the release group sizes and recovery programs required to meet the statistical criteria for CWT recovery data. Sampling programs should include all fisheries, hatcheries, and spawning ground areas where CWT exploitation rate indicator stocks are present.

RECOMMENDATION 4 – We recommend completion of a comprehensive survey and statistical analysis of all relevant published and unpublished CWT studies that concerns the correspondence between exploitation patterns and rates for hatchery indicator stocks as compared to their natural counterparts. This review should also include new analysis of relevant agency-collected data that have not yet been previously subject to analysis. Recommendations for additional studies should be made if they are judged necessary.

Dr. Marianna Alexandersdottir, biometrician for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, chaired the Working Group, and will provide a summary of the Working Group's action plan.

Council Task:

Receive information and discuss implications.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.3.b, Supplemental PSC Report: An Action Plan in Response to Coded-wire tag (CWT) Expert Panel Recommendations: Executive Summary.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. PSC Report
- c. Agency and Tribal Comments
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. Council Discussion

Chuck Tracy
Marianna Alexandersdottir

PFMC
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