

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON
2011 SALMON METHODOLOGY REVIEW

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) met with representatives of the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) after the methodology review meeting in October and discussed, among other issues, an evaluation of a Lower Columbia River (LCR) Tule Chinook abundance based management (ABM) approach. Based on those discussions and on the specific recommendation of the SAS, NMFS recommends the Council conduct a periodic assessment of any ABM approach that is implemented.

The first assessment of the LCR Tule Chinook ABM program should occur after the third year of implementation with additional assessments every three years thereafter. The assessments should include, but not be limited to:

- Forecast Results
 - Compare preseason forecast of lower river hatchery (LRH) Chinook to post season run size estimates
 - Did forecast predict the correct exploitation rate tier?
- Harvest Results
 - Compare preseason exploitation rate limit to post season exploitation rate
 - Compare distribution of harvest between fisheries to those anticipated during the development process (see Table 10 of Agenda Item C.1.a, Attachment 1).
 - Compare quotas and other southern U.S. preseason fishery management provisions with post season results
- Have hatchery production levels changed significantly? Are the changes such that they might affect the results of the preseason forecast?
- Is there new information that might improve the forecast for LRH Chinook? Is there new information that might allow more direct forecasts of LCR tule natural Chinook abundance?
- Provide a narrative summary of management actions taken to meet the year specific circumstances. How much more or less opportunity resulted from implementation of the abundance based scheme relative to what might have occurred under a fixed exploitation rate limit of 37%?

PFMC
11/2/11