

SALMON AMENDMENT COMMITTEE REPORT ON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN  
AMENDMENT 16, ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

The Salmon Amendment Committee (SAC) needs to update two issues associated with alternatives identified in their progress report (Agenda Item C.1.b, SAC Report): the use of stock complexes and indicator stocks for annual catch limits (ACLs), and the viability of an F-based ACL framework.

The SAC progress report provides a set of recommendations for classifying stocks in the fishery, designating ecosystem component stocks, and application of the international exception. The SAC's recommendations are summarized in Tables 5, 6, and 7 for coho, Chinook, and pink stocks in the Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The SAC subsequently determined that it would also be necessary to identify two stock complexes. The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) and National Standard 1 Guidelines (NSIGs) require that FMPs establish ACLs for all stocks in the fishery. There are a few stocks in the fishery that are data poor and need to be associated with an indicator stock in order to specify ACLs. The Klamath River fall Chinook stock would be used as an indicator for a complex that would include Klamath River spring Chinook, Smith River Chinook, and Southern Oregon Chinook. Sacramento River fall Chinook would be used as an indicator stock for fall and late fall Chinook from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins. The indicator stocks will be used to specify ACLs for these complexes.

The SAC progress report describes three alternatives for specifying overfishing limit/acceptable biological catch/ACL frameworks (Table 9). One alternative (Alternative 2) proposed using only a measure of the fishery mortality rate (F) to specify the reference points. The SAC was subsequently informed that the F-based alternative is not consistent with the MSA or the NSIGs, which require the reference points to be expressed in terms of numbers of fish, and that there is insufficient flexibility to allow the use of exclusively F-based reference points. The F-based alternative will therefore be dropped from further consideration in Amendment 16.

Two other corrections in the progress report should be noted. First, Table 2 on page 8 incorrectly indicates that Washington Coast Chinook stocks are target stocks, they should be classified as non-target stocks. Second, on page 23, the lower break point estimate of S for Hood Canal coho corresponds to  $0.749S_{MSY}$ , not  $1.090 S_{MSY}$ . Therefore, an overfished status determination criteria (SDC) for Hood Canal coho based on the lower break point spawning escapement would be tractable and similar to other Puget Sound coho stocks.

PFMC  
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