

PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION REPORT ON IDENTIFICATION OF
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRELIMINARY DEFINITION OF
2014 SALMON MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Report on recent activities of the Pacific Salmon Commission:

The Pacific Salmon Commission held its Post-Season meeting in January in Portland and its Annual Meeting in February in Vancouver.

In addition to review of Pacific Salmon Treaty fisheries in 2013 and work on a number of on-going topics, both sessions had a significant focus on domestic and bilateral concerns about funding and budget for the current fiscal year and beyond. Among other concerns, the U.S. Section and the bilateral Commission was presented with serious reservations contained in a letter from the co-chairs of Commission technical committees about the persistent degradation of management infrastructure, including the coded wire tag program.

Much as for the Pacific Council, passage of the FY 14 Omnibus Appropriations during the meetings provided the U.S. Section some financial breathing room for this fiscal year. Longer term funding challenges remain.

Difficult short-term budget issues were resolved with agreed approaches that relate to:

- Administration of the Commission;
- Fraser River stock assessment and fishery management;
- The continuation projects supporting the coast-wide CWT program;
- And on-going chinook conservation and management projects.

The Analytical Work Group of the PSC Chinook Technical Committee will meet the week of March 17 for model runs that determine the 2013 Post-season and the 2014 Pre-season indexes for the three PSC Aggregate Abundance Based Management (AABM) fisheries for chinook. Those fisheries are Southeast Alaska (SEAK), Northern B.C. (NBC), and West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI). Thanks to the urging of Director Anderson and other commissioners, it is anticipated that the 2014 pre-season indexes that determine the allowable catches for the AABM fisheries will be released by the Chinook Technical Committee on or about March 25 in order to be utilized in the PFMC salmon management process for the April 2014 meeting.