

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
CALIFORNIA COASTAL CHINOOK UPDATE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the document “California Coastal Salmonid Population Monitoring: Strategy, Design, and Methods” (Agenda item F.9.a, Attachment 1) submitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The monitoring plan had been examined previously during a workshop associated with the April Council meeting in which members of the SSC, Salmon Technical Team, and Salmon Advisory Subpanel participated.

The document provides a broad overview of possible methods, concepts, and considerations that could be used in development of a monitoring plan but is not focused specifically on California Coastal Chinook or on data needs for potential abundance-based management of this stock. The SSC notes generally that these data needs include estimation of both stock-specific escapement and harvest. One challenge is the lack of coded-wire-tagged fish for this stock, which necessitates using alternative methods of estimating stock-specific harvest (e.g., genetic stock identification).

The SSC concludes that while this document could be used as a general guide to develop a more specific monitoring plan for California Coastal Chinook, it lacks detail to determine whether the data collected would be adequate for Council decision-making regarding abundance-based management. Establishing a monitoring program for this stock would require an intensive, long-term investment, with uncertain fishery benefits. If CDFW and the Council decide to pursue development of a monitoring plan for this stock, the proposed methods should undergo thorough SSC review to ensure the monitoring will meet management needs.

PFMC
03/11/14