

IDENTIFICATION OF STOCKS NOT MEETING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Overfishing Concern

Each year, exclusive of stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Salmon Technical Team (STT) must identify any of the natural salmon stocks with conservation objectives identified in the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that have failed to meet their conservation objective in each of the past three years (Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 1). For any stock so identified that does not meet the exception criteria, an Overfishing Concern is triggered. An Overfishing Concern requires the Council direct the STT and Habitat Committee (HC) to work with State and Tribal fishery managers to complete an assessment of the cause of the conservation shortfalls and provide recommendations to the Council for stock recovery. Based on those recommendations, the Council must take actions within one year of an identified concern to prevent overfishing and begin rebuilding the stock.

In the case of natural stocks which have failed to achieve their conservation objective in each of the past three years, but are exceptions under the Salmon FMP Overfishing Criteria, the STT, HC, and Council should: (1) confirm that harvest impacts in Council fisheries continue to be less than five percent, (2) identify the probable cause of the current stock depression, (3) continue to monitor the status of the stocks, and (4) advocate measures to improve stock productivity.

Last year the Council identified two stocks that had triggered an Overfishing Concern: Queets and Western Strait of Juan de Fuca natural coho. The STT conducted assessments for the cause of the spawning escapement shortfalls for these two stocks and will report on their findings and any recommendations for changing management measures, conservation objectives, or analytical methods, or for specifying recovery criteria (Agenda Item G.3.b, STT Report 1 and STT Report 2). The HC is conducting an assessment of the essential fish habitat affecting these stocks as well.

Klamath River fall Chinook triggered an Overfishing Concern in 2007, and the Council adopted rebuilding criteria and measures in 2008. The STT will report on the rebuilding status of that stock.

Conservation Alert

The Salmon FMP (Attachment 1) states that any stock projected to fall short of its conservation objective triggers a Conservation Alert. If the stock in question has not met its conservation objective in the previous two years, the Council shall request the pertinent State and Tribal managers to complete a formal assessment of the primary factors leading to the shortfalls and report their conclusions and recommendations to the Council no later than the March meeting prior to the next salmon season.

New Considerations for 2010

Table I-3 in Preseason Report I compares stock specific conservation objectives with recent year stock performance, which will determine if any stocks have triggered an Overfishing Concern or Conservation Alert. The STT may update some of the information in that table for the Council at the Council meeting. However, at the time of the advance Briefing Book deadline, the Sacramento fall Chinook stock status has triggered an Overfishing Concern.

Council Action:

- 1. Identify naturally spawning stocks failing to meet their conservation objectives (exclusive of stocks listed under the ESA).**
- 2. Identify naturally spawning stocks projected to not meet their conservation objectives in 2009 (exclusive of stocks listed under the ESA).**
- 3. Confirm implementation of the actions required by the Council's Overfishing Concern and Conservation Alert procedures in the salmon FMP.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.3.a, Attachment 1: Excerpt from the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan – § 3.2. Overfishing Criteria.
2. *Preseason Report I: Stock Abundance Analysis for 2010 Ocean Salmon Fisheries* (Included with Briefing Book).
3. Agenda Item G.3.b, STT Report 1: Salmon Technical Team Report on Queets Coho Overfishing Assessment.
4. Agenda Item G.3.b, STT Report 2: Salmon Technical Team Report on Western Strait Juan de Fuca Coho Overfishing Assessment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Direct Necessary Actions Required by the Salmon Fishery Management Plan
- Chuck Tracy

PFMC
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