

## **Salmon Methodology Review**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has stated that it is their intent to put more mark-selective fisheries on the water. As prudent managers, we need to finish the discussion on what constitutes low intensity or low levels of mark-selective fisheries that the SSC and STT have alluded to in their reports at the November 2008 Council meeting.

The Tribes are very concerned as to whether the FRAM model calculates the information necessary to monitor the impact or intensity levels of mark-selective fisheries. Fishery impacts to natural stocks become based upon unobservable release mortality while the ratios of marked to unmarked fish diverge as selective fisheries increase. So we support prioritizing the examination of potential bias introduced by mark-selective fisheries that is identified as Task 2 on the Supplemental SSC Report.

The annual post season reports regarding the coho mark selective fishery in Area 1-4 has indicated that the mark rate has been consistently overestimated in our pre-season modeling for the last 8-9 years. Is the continued sensitivity analysis of FRAM listed in the Supplemental SSC Report and the Supplemental MEW Report going to address this noted bias? As a related question, how sensitive is the FRAM in forecasting mark rate to forecast error in one or two major hatchery stocks contained within the model?

Finally, the tribes have requested that a multi-year review be conducted on the ocean mark-selective fishery for coho that has been conducted in Areas 1-4 for the past ten years. The suggestion was for this review to be patterned after one conducted by WDFW of the Area 5/6 mark selective fishery for chinook that was completed a few years ago. This report should be prepared by either the SSC or the STT before the next year's preseason planning cycle for salmon. Especially, if it is this Council's intent to continue to consider increasing both the number and intensity these fisheries in Council waters.