

Common Terms Used in Salmon Management

Pacific Fishery Management Council, February 2009

Acceptable biological catch (ABC). A scientific calculation of the sustainable harvest level of a fishery, used to set the upper limit of the annual total allowable catch.

Anadromous. Fish that spend their adult life in the sea, but swim upriver to freshwater spawning grounds in order to reproduce.

Biological Opinion (BO, BiOp). A scientific assessment issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as required by the Endangered Species Act for listed species. Determines the likelihood of an action to jeopardize the existence of a species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Bycatch. Fish that are unintentionally captured in a fishery, but that are discarded (returned to the sea) rather than being sold, kept for personal use, or donated to a charitable organization. Bycatch plus landed catch equals the total catch, or total estimated fishing mortality.

Conservation objective. Sometimes called the spawning escapement goal: the number of salmon needed to return to spawn in order to maintain the health of the stock.

Escapement. The number or proportion of fish surviving (escaping from) a given fishery at the end of the fishing season and reaching the spawning grounds.

Escapement goal. See “conservation objective.”

Evolutionarily significant unit (ESU). A distinctive group of Pacific salmon, steelhead, or sea-run cutthroat trout that is uniquely adapted to a particular area or environment and cannot be replaced.

Fishery management council. A fisheries management body established by the 1976 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to manage fishery resources in designated regions of the United States. There are eight regional Councils, including the Pacific Council.

Management objective. An annual goal for spawning escapement, or a harvest rate, that may differ from the conservation objective.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). A division of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NMFS is responsible for conservation and management of offshore fisheries. The NMFS Regional Director is a voting member of the Council.

Optimum yield (OY). The amount of fish that will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to food production and recreational opportunities, and taking into account the protection of marine ecosystems. The OY is developed on the basis of the Maximum Sustained Yield from the fishery, taking into account relevant economic, social, and ecological factors. In the case of overfished fisheries, the OY provides for rebuilding to a level that is consistent with producing the Maximum Sustained Yield for the fishery.

Overfishing concern. A salmon stock that does not meet its minimum escapement goal for three consecutive years is subject to an overfishing concern. This triggers a review by National Marine Fisheries Service, which may declare the stock overfished.

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). The PSMFC is a non-regulatory agency that serves Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. PSMFC (headquartered in Portland) administers salmon disaster relief funds, provides a communication exchange between the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and provides information in the form of data services for various fisheries.

Preseason reports. Prior to the development of management options for the salmon season, the Council's Salmon Technical Team develops four preseason reports:

- *Review of Ocean Salmon Fisheries* tallies catch and escapement from the most recent fishing season.
- Preseason I, *Stock Abundance Analysis for [Year] Ocean Salmon Fisheries*, provides forecasts for stock abundance for the coming season.
- Preseason II, *Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for [Year] Ocean Salmon Fisheries*, analyzes proposed regulatory options for the year's ocean salmon fisheries.
- Preseason III, *Analysis of Council Adopted Management Measures for [Year] Ocean Salmon Fisheries*, analyzes management measures adopted by the Council.

Rebuilding. The process of rebuilding an overfished stock or a stock subject to an overfishing concern. For salmon, rebuilding usually takes the form of reduced harvest limits.

Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS). A Council advisory body made up of commercial fishery, recreational fishery, tribal, public, and conservation representatives. These advisors play a large role in developing the Council's annual salmon management options in March and April. SAS meetings are open to the public.

Salmon Technical Team (STT). The [Salmon Technical Team](#) helps the Council by summarizing data from the previous season, estimating the number of salmon in the coming season, and analyzing the effects of the Council's recommendations and amendments. The STT is made up of scientists drawn from state, federal and tribal fisheries management agencies, all of whom have technical expertise in salmon management. STT meetings are open to the public.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). A Council advisory body made up of scientists with biological and economic expertise. The SSC gathers and analyzes statistical, biological,

ecological, economic, social, and other scientific information that is relevant to the management of Council fisheries.

Spawning. The production and depositing of eggs by salmon or other fish. For salmon, spawning occurs in rivers and tributaries meeting certain healthy environmental conditions.

Spawning escapement. See escapement.