

PROPOSED AGENDA
Ad-Hoc Salmon Mortality Committee

Pacific Fishery Management Council

Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel
Columbia Ballroom C
8235 NE Airport Way
Portland, OR 97220-1398
(503) 281-2500
June 21, 1999

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 1999 - 1 P.M.

A. Call to Order

LB Boydston

1. Chairman's Remarks
2. Review of Agenda

B. Progress Reports on the Review and Technical Evaluation
of Recent Nonretention Mortality Studies

D. McNair, P. Lawson, and R. Kope

Mr. Doug McNair has completed a summary of recent hooking mortality studies as an initial step in the effort to improve nonretention mortality estimates in Council fisheries (previously mailed to committee members). He will review his report with the committee. The next step is a technical evaluation of the recent studies led by Drs. Pete Lawson and Robert Kope. The intent of this effort is to relate and standardize the results of the various studies for easier comparison as well as providing guidance in reviewing current creel census information and in collecting future data from which to estimate nonretention mortality in Council fisheries (see #1 of the November meeting minutes, attached).

C. Development of Ocean Fishery Profiles and Encounter Rate Information

LB Boydston

Using the technical evaluation of recent hooking mortality studies as a guide, committee members will need to have their respective agencies begin developing standardized ocean fishery profiles and encounter rate information (see #2 and #3 of the November meeting minutes). A meeting will likely be needed to coordinate this action in the near future. Committee members should identify the pertinent ocean sampling personnel to be involved in the current effort and meeting, as well as future budget and personnel needs.

D. Assignments and Other Issues

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MINUTES AND REPORT
Ad-hoc Salmon Nonretention Mortality Committee
Pacific Fishery Management Council
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission Conference Room
45SE 82nd Drive, Suite 100
Gladstone, OR 97027-2522
December 9, 1998

Mr. LB Boydston, committee chair, called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. The following committee members were in attendance:

LB Boydston, chair	Phil Anderson
Stuart Ellis (for Jim Harp)	Randy Fisher (for Dave Hanson)
Rod Kaiser (for Burnie Bohn)	Bill Robinson
Tim Roth	John Coon (Council staff)

Other attendees were:

Les and Francis Clark	Mike Crewson	Paul Engelmeyer
Robert Kope	Pete Lawson	Doug Milward
Jim Olson	Hans Radtke	Gerald Reinholdt
Dell Simmons	Don Stevens	Roger Thomas

The purpose of the meeting was to develop recommendations for actions to accurately assess the incidence and mortality of salmon caught and released in Council ocean salmon fisheries, to maintain the Council's ability to use the best science in assessment of nonretention fishery impacts over the long-term, and to explore ways to minimize nonretention mortality. The recommendations developed by the committee revolve around answering four questions:

- (1) Are the hook-and-release mortality rates currently used in Council ocean salmon fisheries correct (the best science available)? If not, what rates should be used?
- (2) What changes in fishing gear could be made to reduce hook-and-release mortality?
- (3) What studies are needed to determine more accurate hook-and-release mortality rates (i.e., studies with regard to direct estimation of hook-and-release mortality, encounter rates, fishery profiles, etc.)?
- (4) What additional studies or management tools are needed to assure the Council can accurately assess impacts of selective fisheries for marked hatchery fish (e.g., changes in impact modeling)?

The committee's recommendations, which follow below, are aimed at making comprehensive improvements in Council management of nonretention mortalities and do not propose specific hook-and-release mortality rate changes for the 1999 ocean salmon season. The recommendations incorporate actions which have resulted from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) Hooking Mortality Workshop on December 8, 1998. In line with the approach at that workshop, the committee stresses the need for and benefits of close coordination among all fishery management entities, including those of Canada, to address the issues of nonretention fishery impacts. The committee's specific recommendations follow:

1. **Combined Literature and Technical Review of Existing Research** - To begin addressing the first question (above), a thorough literature review and technical evaluation of the hook-and-release mortality research pertinent to ocean salmon fisheries should be completed in the next few months. The review should result in a summary which, to the degree possible, relates and standardizes the results of the various studies for easy comparison (i.e., establishes a protocol for comparing current and future studies, including the standardization of terms for short- and long-term mortality, relevant fishing gear descriptions and categories, hook wound locations and relevance, etc.), and makes recommendations for any needed future research.

The PSMFC has agreed to coordinate a literature and technical review of the current hook-and-release mortality research along the lines recommended above. The committee recommends that the technical review include the U.S. and Canadian researchers from the hook-and-release mortality workshop and also include Dr. Robert Kope (Salmon Technical Team chair), Dr. Pete Lawson (Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)) and Dr. Robert Conrad (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and SSC). The PSMFC has indicated that a meeting of the review group is likely to occur in January 1999. The committee urges the review group to have a product completed by no later than early June 1999 to afford review at or prior to the June Council meeting (June 21-25, 1999).

2. **Ocean Fishery Profiles** - Based on the standard protocols to be developed by the PSMFC review group, the state and tribal fishery management entities should (through their harvest sampling personnel) develop standardized profiles of the current and recent ocean fisheries with regard to fishing methods (trolling, mooching, etc.), gear descriptions (hook sizes, number and layout; baits, etc.) and other pertinent baseline information. Such information can be used to assess the differences in various fisheries which may be likely to create differences in hook-and-release mortality rates and/or identify areas of needed research or special management consideration. This information should be developed by early June 1999 to afford committee review. Once established, the committee believes it would also be important to update the information periodically to document and respond to any major changes. This effort addresses questions #1 through #3, above.
3. **Encounter Rate Estimation** - With regard to encounter rate estimates, pertinent representatives of the state and tribal fishery management entities, with assistance from National Marine Fisheries Service (perhaps in the form of a biometrician), should meet in February 1999 (meeting to be coordinated by PSMFC). The purpose of the meeting would be to summarize and review existing encounter rate information and plan future coordinated and standardized data collection through on-the-water observers and test fisheries, including personnel and budget needs to conduct an ongoing coastwide encounter rate estimation program in the commercial and sport salmon fisheries. This effort addresses questions #1 and #3 above.
4. **Standardized Record of Nonretention Mortality Impacts** - The STT should maintain a clear record of nonretention mortality projections and postseason estimates in its preseason reports (including hook-and-release mortality rates or changes thereof and methods of estimating encounter rates). This record is necessary to meet requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
5. **Selective Fisheries** - The states, tribes and Council technical advisors should maintain or improve coordination among the management entities with regard to developing other studies or model changes which can accurately assess the impacts of selective fisheries for marked hatchery fish. This effort addresses question #4, above.
6. **Changes in Fishing Gear to Reduce Hook-and-Release Mortality (Question #2)** - Following the assessment, standardization and summarization of existing research and data under the first three recommendations (above), the Council should consider a mechanism for coordinating the development of specific recommendations for fishing gear changes and/or test fisheries to assess such changes. Reconvening this committee may be appropriate to develop guidance in this effort.

The committee instructed Council staff to keep it apprised of any draft products resulting from the actions outlined above and to plan on a second committee meeting to review the products of the PSMFC review group during the June Council meeting. If beneficial, the committee may also consider meeting at the March Council meeting.

Mr. Boydston adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

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