

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESEARCH FISHERY PROPOSALS

In 1999 several test fisheries were included in the management options adopted by the Council for ocean salmon fisheries. The test fisheries were proposed with varying degrees of planning and justification. Because it appears that test fisheries may continue to be a part of ocean salmon fisheries, there is potential for test fishery proposals to disrupt the preseason process unless there is an orderly process for proposing and adopting test fisheries.

In order to introduce some standards, an eleven member work group of CDFG and NMFS staff met in Healdsburg on May 27, 1999 to develop recommendations for proposing and reporting results of test fisheries. These recommendations are outlined below.

- A. Process for submission and approval of research fisheries.
  - 1. Proposals must be submitted to the PFMC 2 weeks prior to the November meeting for research fisheries occurring in the upcoming management cycle. Management years begin May 1 and end April 30.
  - 2. Council staff will screen proposals and distribute to Council members with briefing materials for the November meeting. Proposals that do not meet minimum content requirements will be returned to applicants.
  - 3. Proposals will be given to the SSC, STT, and SAS at the November Council meeting for review.
    - a. The states and NMFS may supply comments through their STT members, including available resources available for research fisheries.
    - b. Written STT, SSC, and SAS evaluations of proposals will be provided to the Council at the March meeting.
  - 4. The Council will determine which research fisheries to include in the options put out for public review and make a final decision at the April meeting.
  
- B. Proposal Contents
  - 1. Project Summary - include a statement of objectives, methods to be employed and the potential impact of the project.
  - 2. Applicant - Identify the project manager (the person responsible for overall coordination of the project from beginning to end), and other staff, organizations necessary to complete the project, including specific responsibilities related to technical, analytical and management roles. Is the work proposed appropriate for the experience of the investigators?
  - 3. Objectives
    - a. A clear statement of the specific purposes of the study
    - b. Identify the hypothesis - the specific purpose stated in the form of a question.
    - c. Benefits to the resource - identify potential benefits to specific stocks, improved estimates of key harvest model parameters (e.g. stock contact rates, hooking mortality rates, gear selectivity on encounter rates)
  - 4. Research Design and Methodology
    - a. Specify the major elements of the design, including, sample size, number of years the research fishery will run, potential limitations of the proposed approach, geographic scope.
    - b. Data Collection - sampling methods, personnel and protocols
    - c. Analysis data synthesis and analysis - describe how the data will be analyzed and

evaluated

- d. Reporting - provide a time table for delivering report(s) to the Council.
  - e. Discuss compatibility with existing seasons and other research fisheries, potential difficulties with processors or dealers, additional enforcement requirements, and potential negative impacts of the study (e.g., ESA species, allocation shifts, shortened season length, etc.).
5. Ability to Conduct Proposed Research - Identify the total budgeted costs (including collection of samples, tissue and data analysis) associated with the research fishery and sources of funding; identify any existing commitments for participation in, or funding of the project.
- C. Report Contents - Summary of the work completed, analysis of data, conclusions and recommendations. Include raw data as well as summaries.
- D. In general, three years of data should be accumulated before incorporating the results of research fisheries into appropriate harvest models, however the STT may consider interim results from research fisheries to inform decisions on harvest management if appropriate. The SSC requires information relevant to methodology changes be submitted by the November meeting.

PFMC  
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