

DRAFT MINUTES AND REPORT
Ad-hoc Salmon Nonretention Mortality Committee
Pacific Fishery Management Council
Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel
Columbia Ballroom C
8235 NE Airport Way
Portland, OR 97220-1398
June 21, 1999

Mr. LB Boydston, committee chair, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. The following committee members were in attendance:

LB Boydston, chair	Phil Anderson
Burnie Bohn	Jim Harp
Bill Robinson	Tim Roth
John Coon (Council staff)	

Other attendees were:

Bob Conrad	Paul Engelmeyer	Tom Jones
Rod Kaiser	Robert Kope	Pete Lawson
Doug McNair	Curt Melcher	Doug Milward
Pat Pattillo	Don Stevens	Roger Thomas

The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on previous committee recommendations and assignments concerning the review, determination, and maintenance of the best estimates of nonretention mortality in Council salmon fisheries (see minutes of December 9, 1998 meeting).

Progress Reports

Mr. Doug McNair discussed the conclusions from his report, *Review of Recent Hooking Mortality Studies*, which examines differences and similarities among recent nonretention mortality studies as well as a comparison with some earlier research. Mr. McNair concluded that there is significant commonality among studies in estimating short-term and long-term mortality coefficients for chinook in commercial troll fisheries which tend to point toward long-term hook-and-release mortality rates in the range of 21% to 25%. Nonretention mortality rates for coho in commercial fisheries tend to be consistently higher and somewhat more variable (an estimate derived by combining information from three studies resulted in a 39% nonretention mortality rate). Prior to 1994, there were few studies of the recreational ocean salmon fishery nonretention mortality rate. The most significant studies available to the Salmon Technical Team (STT) at the time the present recreational rate was set indicated consistently low mortality (less than 10%). The results of recreational studies after 1994 have not confirmed the low rates of the earlier studies and have tended to provide more variable and significantly higher estimates. This is especially true with regard to holding salmon for long-term analyses which seems to be nearly impossible without introducing significant mortality effects from the holding procedures.

Dr. Peter Lawson reported that the technical review group was in the process of looking more deeply into the data from the studies summarized by Mr. McNair and hoped to find at least some statistical significance across the studies in the relationship of hook location to mortality rate. If this is the case, it may be possible to estimate hook-and-release mortality rates for various fisheries from gear-type profiles that can be related to hook location frequencies.

Ocean Fishery Profiles

Dr. Robert Kope referred the committee to the STT comments on nonretention mortality in Supplemental STT Report D.3. The STT recommends standardizing the fishery monitoring programs to develop coordinated fishery profiles that can be used to estimate hook-and-release mortality as outlined above by

Dr. Lawson. State and tribal representatives indicated that they will provide the details of their individual monitoring programs for 1999 to the technical group for review. A meeting of ocean sampling personnel later this fall could be used to coordinate the program beginning in the year 2000. Mr. Phil Anderson indicated that in addition to the actions of the committee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife would likely be meeting with the tribes and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to help coordinate policy and technical guidance on the hook-and-release mortality issue as they apply to fisheries north of Cape Falcon. Any guidance developed in these meetings would be reported at the next committee meeting.

Assignments and Recommendations

Mr. Boydston summarized the actions agreed to by the committee as follows:

1. The technical workgroup will review and analyze data summarized in Mr. McNair's report to establish the use of hook wound location data in estimating hook-and-release mortality in the ocean sport fishery. Dr. Lawson will take primary responsibility for completing a statistical analysis of the relationship of hook wound location and mortality across the reviewed studies. A phone conference of the workgroup and committee should occur no later than mid-August so that the work is completed in time for review at the September Council meeting.
2. The states and tribes will provide the technical workgroup with their current fishery monitoring plans as soon as possible and attempt to coordinate their information collection as much as possible this year, recognizing that it will be 2000 before a completely coordinated program could be developed. While hook location for all released fish is important information to gather, it was recognized that limitations in on-board charter boat sampling may not allow this to occur.
3. Based on the findings of its analysis, the technical workgroup will develop recommendations for gathering standardized fishery profile data that can be combined with hook wound location frequencies to arrive at mortality estimates. A meeting this fall or winter with ocean fishery sampling personnel would be used to coordinate development of a standardized monitoring program for 2000.
4. It is too early at this point to say whether a recommendation for any new nonretention mortality rates will be made at the November meeting.
5. The technical workgroup will be in contact with Canadian researchers to coordinate and stay abreast of their research efforts.
6. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife plans to have a preliminary report on the results of its selective coho fishery monitoring program at the September Council meeting.

Mr. Boydston adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

PFMC
06/22/99