

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON  
NON-RETENTION MORTALITY IN OCEAN SALMON FISHERIES

Dr. Robert Kope of the Salmon Technical Team (STT) briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on the status of the review of nonretention mortality in ocean salmon fisheries. Several studies of hooking mortality have been released since the STT's last review; however, none have been peer reviewed. He stated there are sufficient data available to estimate short and long-term mortality in the commercial troll fishery. In the recreational fishery there are probably adequate data to estimate short-term mortality from hook wound location. The problem of estimating long-term mortality rates in these fisheries has not been solved. Hook wound location varies with gear type and fishing methods. The states of California, Oregon, and Washington will monitor the 1999 recreational ocean fisheries and collect data on gear, fishing methods, and encounter rates. This information will be used to develop more accurate fishery-specific estimates of hooking mortality rates in monitored recreational fisheries. The states of California, Oregon, and Washington should coordinate and standardize their data collection methods.

In its April 1999 statement to the Council (Supplemental SSC Report F.2.) the SSC recommended the comprehensive review of historical and new studies of hooking mortality be completed. The SSC reminds the Council that, if modified hooking mortality rates are to be adopted for use in the year 2000, all materials must be submitted to the SSC for review prior to the September 1999 meeting.

PFMC  
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