

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL COMMENTS ON  
REVIEW OF 1999 FISHERIES AND SUMMARY OF 2000 STOCK ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel requests the Council take action to acknowledge and support increased funding for salmon production at the "Mitchell Act" hatcheries on the Columbia River.

Over 50 years ago, the Mitchell Act created hatcheries to mitigate for lost Columbia River salmon production due to hydroelectric dams. The Salmon produced by these hatcheries became the backbone of the Washington ocean salmon fishery and are also critical to the survival of most lower Columbia River salmon fisheries.

Production in these hatcheries during the past ten years has declined substantially due to lack of funding and reprogramming. In response, the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho have drafted a plan entitled *Mitchell Act Hatchery and Fish Screen Reform 2001*. This plan has been submitted to Congress for funding. The plan includes proposals for broodstock reform, conservation marking, and species reintroduction among other measures designed to make future production compatible with wild salmon runs.

Survival of an ocean fishery north of Cape Falcon is dependent upon the full funding and implementation of this plan.

PFMC  
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