

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON  
REVIEW OF 1999 FISHERIES AND SUMMARY OF 2000 STOCK ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES

Mr. Doug Milward of the Salmon Technical Team (STT) reviewed the 1999 ocean salmon fisheries and 2000 stock abundance estimates for the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). He stated the 2000 preseason abundance forecast for most chinook and coho stocks were similar to last years' preseason estimates. The Klamath River chinook forecast is larger than last years' estimates; however, the Council has the option of managing for the escapement floor of 35,000 natural spawners. The escapement was below the floor in 1999. Two more years of sub-floor escapements would result in an overfishing determination. A precautionary approach should be used when managing this stock. Basing management decisions to meet minimum escapement levels leaves little or no room for error if the escapement floor is to be met or exceeded.

The SSC requested the STT add the postseason estimates for all stocks listed in Table I-1 and I-2 in the *Preseason Report I (Stock Abundance Analysis for 2000 Ocean Salmon Fisheries)*. The SSC is concerned methods used to predict stock abundances are changing without review.

PFMC  
03/07/00