

**PFMC Briefing Statement
Pacific Salmon Commission Activities
March 7, 2000**

Following the completion of the new long-term agreement on June 30, 1999, the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) has begun the task of implementing the fishery regimes and other actions described by the agreement. Meetings were held in December, January and February to address the many issues necessary to the successful implementation of the agreement provisions. The PSC has established a Northern Boundary and Transboundary Restoration and Enhancement Fund and a Southern Boundary Restoration and Enhancement Fund that has received initial investments of \$10 million to each fund from the U.S. Treasury. Northern and Southern Fund Committees of the PSC will administer these trust funds to support activities to develop an improved resource information base, rehabilitate and restore habitat, and enhance wild stock production. Other activities of primary interest focused on addressing the implementation of the chinook and coho regimes and the new habitat agreement and responding to the Washington and Oregon mass marking and selective fisheries proposals.

The abundance based chinook regime required by the agreement will be implemented beginning in 2000. The PSC Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) is working to calibrate the model that will be used to evaluate the catch targets and fisheries restrictions that are required by the agreement. CTC representatives will be working with the tribes and states during the PFMC and North of Falcon pre-season planning process to assure that our fisheries plans are consistent with the PSC agreement. The PSC will be meeting on April 26-27 to hear a report from the CTC and to evaluate the parties' fisheries regimes for 2000 as they relate to the chinook agreement.

The PSC has formed a Coho Workgroup that has been tasked with developing the abundance based coho fisheries plan that is required by the agreement. The workgroup and Coho Technical Committee have developed a workplan that will lead to the implementation of this new plan beginning in 2001. For 2000, the tribes, WDFW and ODFW have agreed to meet with Canada on a manager-to-manager basis to provide an opportunity for each party to input to the other party's pre-season planning processes for both coho and chinook. Meetings are scheduled for March 14 and 28 for this purpose.

The PSC heard a status report from its Selective Fisheries Evaluation Committee (SFEC) concerning the mass marking and selective fisheries proposal submitted by WDFW and ODFW, and made the following statement.

“Concerns have been expressed about the mass marking of chinook by Washington and Oregon and potential selective fisheries and the impacts of those activities on the viability of the coded wire tagging program. While there was not agreement on the level of risk to that program, there are unresolved concerns about the ability of the Parties to fulfill bilateral obligations to maintain a coded

wire tag program, and to implement their responsibilities under Chapter 3 of Annex 4 of the Pacific Salmon treaty. The Commission reiterated the need for Parties to maintain the integrity and reliability of the coded wire tagging program as provided in the 1985 Memorandum of Understanding."

WDFW and ODFW committed to taking the lead and bringing new analytical capabilities to address these outstanding technical issues and solve the problems identified by the SFEC such that the integrity and reliability of the CWT program can be maintained.

The PSC has established a committee to develop a process for implementing the new Habitat and Restoration agreement. The committee is developing a format for the parties to report annually on stocks that are not likely to rebuild by harvest management actions alone and the factors limiting their production.