

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
IDENTIFICATION OF STOCKS NOT MEETING ESCAPEMENT GOALS
FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS

Mr. Doug Milward of the Salmon Technical Team (STT) identified stocks that failed to meet their escapement goals for the past three years. All stocks that failed to meet escapement goals, with the exception of Queets River fall coho, were exempted from the overfishing criteria. Exempted stocks are either harvested at rates less than 5% in Council-managed fisheries or listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The Queets River fall coho escapement has been less than the 5,800 floor the past three years. During this time period Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Quinault Indian Nation agreed on yearly escapement targets that were less than 5,800 fish. In one of the three years the coho escapement met the target. It is our understanding this stock would not be considered overfished under the current plan; however, under Amendment 14 it would qualify as overfished.

In general, setting the escapement goal equal to the escapement floor is a strategy with a high risk of falling beneath the floor. The mandatory overfishing reviews and rebuilding plans are an expensive consequence of such management. The Scientific and Statistical Committee recommends the Council manage fisheries with buffers above the floors. This principle also applies to groundfish and other fisheries.

PFMC
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