



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. #1  
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

**JUN 09 2000**

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Dr. Don McIsaac, Executive Director  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224  
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Don:

In response to your request to identify priorities for the SSC review of salmon forecast methodologies, I would like to suggest the decision be based on some simple criteria rather than just choosing from a list.

The criteria I would suggest for consideration would be as follows:

1. Choose stocks critical to ocean management decisions;
  - (a) weak stocks that constrain management actions; and
  - (b) abundant stocks whose management objectives drive ocean management decisions;
2. Choose stocks for which recent forecasts are believed to be the least accurate or reliable.

Some stocks that come to mind that meet these criteria include:

1. Lower Columbia River wild chinook salmon (LCRW). LCRW are listed under the ESA, have been constraining the last few years, and may not be as sustainable as we previously thought.
2. Klamath River fall chinook is always a major driver of ocean management decisions.
3. Lower Columbia River and Spring Creek hatchery stocks are major contributors to the ocean chinook harvest, particularly North of Cape Falcon.
4. OCN coho is now the most critical coho stock driving ocean coho management decisions coastwide.
5. Washington coastal coho stocks are a major driver for North of Falcon ocean management decisions.



Finally, I suggest that the SSC limit itself to thorough reviews of a limited number of methodologies rather than spread themselves too thin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William L. Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William L. Robinson  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
for Sustainable Fisheries