

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON QUEETS COHO

Last fall, the Council instructed the STT to initiate efforts to complete an overfishing review for Queets coho. This action was undertaken in response to the adoption of Amendment 14 and in anticipation that the 2000 Queets coho spawning escapement would fall below the lower end of the management range of 5,800 to 14,500 established for this stock.

Spawning escapement surveys indicate the 2000 Queets coho natural spawning escapement was 8,100 adults (6,700 wild and 1,400 supplemental). The 2001 abundance forecast indicates that it should be possible to manage ocean and inriver fisheries so as to attain escapements for Queets coho within its established range. If this occurs, then escapements for Queets coho would again fall within the goal range established for this stock.

Available information indicates that Queets coho, like many other stocks, suffered from recent production problems when survival of progeny was very low. The annual fishing plans adopted by the Council and state and tribal managers are developed to address concerns for individual stocks of concern. The STT believes it unlikely that completion of an overfishing review for Queets coho would provide substantively more guidance to address future concerns for Queets coho. The STT recommends the Council reconsider its instructions to initiate an overfishing review for Queets coho.

PFMC
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