

HABITAT STEERING GROUP COMMENTS
ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF STOCKS NOT MEETING ESCAPEMENT GOALS
FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS

The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) would like to receive Council guidance relative to the Amendment 14 language and the HSG's role relative to salmon stocks not meeting escapement goals and the overfishing review process.

The HSG is willing to assist the Salmon Technical Team (STT) with its efforts to identify the probable cause of current stock depressions and advocate measures to improve stock productivity. However, the HSG recognizes that the salmon management expertise is housed within the STT and to the extent that adverse impacts to EFH may have contributed to conservation shortfalls, the HSG could evaluate available habitat information.

To that end, the HSG requests that Council staff collate and disseminate the available habitat data from the appropriate agencies and tribes relative to the following salmon stocks:

- Queets coho
- Columbia River summer chinook
- Gray Harbor fall chinook
- Queets spring/summer chinook

for HSG review and comment at the June meeting.

PFMC
04/03/01