

## IDENTIFICATION OF STOCKS NOT MEETING ESCAPEMENT GOALS FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS

Situation: Each year, exclusive of stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Salmon Technical Team (STT) must identify any of the natural salmon stocks with conservation objectives in Table 3-1 of Amendment 14 that have failed to meet their spawner escapement objective in each of the past three years (Table 3-1 is also reproduced in appendix A of *Preseason Report I*). For any stock so identified which is not an exception to the overfishing concern, Amendment 14 requires the STT and Habitat Steering Group (HSG) to work with state and tribal fishery managers to complete an assessment of the cause of the conservation shortfalls and provide recommendations to the Council for stock recovery. Based on those recommendations, the Council must take actions within one year of an identified concern to prevent overfishing and begin rebuilding the stock. This is the current process which is underway for Queets coho (the STT is expected to complete its draft assessment by September 2001).

In the case of natural stocks which have failed to achieve their spawner objective in each of the past three years, but are exceptions under the overfishing criteria of Amendment 14, the STT, HSG, and Council should: (1) confirm that harvest impacts in Council fisheries continue to be less than five percent, (2) identify the probable cause of the current stock depression, (3) continue to monitor the status of the stocks, and (4) advocate measures to improve stock productivity.

Table B-2 in Attachment 1 has been extracted from the STT's Preseason Report I. It indicates the following stocks have not achieved their natural spawner escapement objectives in each of the three most recent years.

1. Upper Columbia River summer chinook.
2. Grays Harbor fall chinook.
3. Queets spring/summer chinook.

All three of these stocks are **exceptions** under the overfishing concern criteria of Amendment 14 by virtue of historical harvest impacts of less than five percent in Council-managed ocean salmon fisheries.

### **Council Action: Based on the report of the STT:**

1. **Identify naturally spawning stocks failing to meet their spawner escapement objectives in each of the past three years (exclusive of stocks listed under the ESA).**
2. **Confirm implementation of the actions required by the Council's overfishing concern procedures in Amendment 14. (For stocks which are exceptions to the overfishing concerns, these actions involve confirming continued low impacts by Council fisheries, identifying the probable cause of the depression, monitoring the status of the stocks, and advocating measures to improve stock productivity.)**

### Reference Materials:

1. Table B-2 (Exhibit B.2, Attachment 1).