

Comments on overfished stocks for 2001
4/3/01

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to briefly comment on the status of Grays Harbor fall Chinook and Queets Spring/summer Chinook. Both of these stocks have not met their spawning escapement objectives for the past three years. In the case of Queets spring/summer Chinook the spawning escapements for the past couple of years have been less than half of the lower end of the desired escapement range. While both of these stocks are categorized as exceptions to the application of the overfishing criteria provided in Amendment 14 and do not require any specific Council fishery actions, their condition is such that some assessment by the Council is appropriate. Consistent with Amendment 14 provisions, I would like to see the Council direct its STT and HSG to conduct an evaluation of whether these two populations continue to be exploited at less than 5% in Council managed fisheries, and to conduct an initial assessment of the causes for their recent decline. I would suggest that they report back to the council with this initial assessment within the next year.