

HABITAT STEERING GROUP COMMENTS ON THE  
QUEETS RIVER COHO STATUS REVIEW

The Habitat Steering Group (HSG) discussed the contents and recommendations outlined in the Queets Coho Stock Assessment prepared by the Council's Salmon Technical Team (STT) (Exhibit D.6.b.). The HSG agrees with the STT's recommendation that the Council and co-managers undertake a comprehensive review of the available information to determine if the lower end of the current maximum sustainable yield escapement range for Queets coho is still appropriate. Further, the HSG recommends that the co-managers review and consider the current status of the habitat given past forest practices in the Queets watershed when setting the new spawning escapement goal. This consideration should include a number of habitat issues that could be limiting factors, such as over-wintering (rearing) habitat, nutrient cycling, incubation flows, and summer temperatures.

The HSG has an interest in Queets coho habitat and requests a joint presentation from the co-managers regarding its current status at the HSG's April 2002 meeting in Portland.

PFMC  
10/31/01