

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON  
QUEETS RIVER COHO STATUS REVIEW

Mr. Dell Simmons presented the Salmon Technical Team's (STT's) Queets Coho Stock Assessment to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). The Queets system is unique in the richness of data appropriate for coho salmon productivity analysis. The analysis presented by the STT makes a good case that poor marine survival was the immediate cause of the low spawner escapements in 1997, 1998, and 1999. Breaking out the factors of harvest, marine survival, and freshwater survival, and isolating the effect of each on natural spawner escapements was an effective technique. The SSC also discussed Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's response and concluded it did not change our evaluation of the STT status review.

The SSC agrees a review of the maximum sustainable yield escapement range for Queets natural coho is warranted; however, the SSC does not necessarily agree the data suggest the range should be lowered.

PFMC  
10/31/01