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Supplemental Report from the Pacific Salmon Commission
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Pacific Salmon Commission Activities PFMC Briefing Paper

The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) met January 13th – 17th in Vancouver, British Columbia for the exchange of post season reports for the 2002 fisheries. Preliminary indications are that all fisheries were within their treaty obligations.

The PSC concluded its annual meeting in Portland, Oregon the week of February 10 - 14, 2003 at which several important issues were discussed. The PSC schedule was to focus upon the bi-lateral fisheries that were still unresolved. These issues of particular interest to the PFMC were:

Coho:

The Southern Panel reviewed the post season catch report and discussed stock status for the various management units covered by the new coho agreement. Thompson coho are expected to continue to be a management concern for Canada. This stock is proposed for listing under SARA, Canada's equivalent to ESA, which has been recently enacted by the federal Canadian government.

A Coho Working Group was established by the Parties. This Group will assist the Coho Technical Committee in implementing the Coho Agreement.

Chinook:

The PSC established a Chinook Interface Group to help resolve some of the issues relating to Chinook salmon. The Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) provided the Group with a list of six issues that they felt required policy review and guidance. The six issues are: 1) Total Mortality Fishing Regimes, 2) Catch Reporting Timetable, 3) Escapement Goal Review, 4) Administrative Staff Position, 5) ISMB Index, and 6) Overage/Underage Policy.

Other matters:

The PSC reached final agreement on the procedures and protocols for a Dispute Resolution process as specified in the 1999 agreement.

The U.S. Commissioners worked on a Habitat paper and formed a small drafting committee that will prepare another version for further internal review.

The PSC Southern Panel discussed a new management approach for chum salmon. This new management approach is to establish a flat exploitation rate instead of the long-standing "clockwork" approach. A small work group was established for negotiations of a working arrangement for the 2003 fisheries and an amendment to the PST Chum Annex for 2004 through the remainder of the PST Agreement.