

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
IDENTIFICATION OF STOCKS NOT MEETING ESCAPEMENT GOALS FOR  
THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS

Mr. Dell Simmons of the Salmon Technical Team reviewed the escapements of natural salmon stocks for the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). All stocks, except one, met their escapement goals in 2002. The Grays Harbor fall chinook stock did not meet its escapement goal. The estimated escapement of this stock in 2002 was 11,300, while the escapement goal is 14,000. This is the fifth consecutive year this stock failed to meet the goal, although the escapement exhibited an increasing trend for the last three years. This stock is an exception to the overfishing criteria, because Council fisheries have limited impacts on this stock (about 1.5% as reported by Mr. Simmons). For the last several years the inriver harvest rate has been greater than 30%, which is one of the factors keeping the escapement below the goal. The SSC recommends the co-managers examine inriver harvest rates and other factors potentially affecting escapements.

As of 2002 the Queets River spring/summer chinook had not achieved its escapement goal for five consecutive years. However, in 2002 the escapement estimate was 738 fish; 38 fish above the goal. This stock is also an exception to the overfishing criteria, because of limited impacts by Council fisheries.

PFMC  
04/07/03