

STATEMENT FOR PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION COHO MODEL REVIEW

Mr. Chairman, Council members, as you are aware in addition to serving on the Pacific Council, I also serve on the Southern Panel of the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Commission. The Coho model before the Pacific Council today represents a commitment from the 2002 Coho Agreement reached with Canada, which was to develop a joint bilateral Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) model.

However, I caution the Council not to proceed too quickly with the adoption of this revised Coho model. This model is being developed bilaterally for use by the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC). Currently, it has yet to be presented and fully reviewed within the PSC forum, which meets annually in January and February. I also believe this new model needs to undergo additional testing and error checking. Consequently, this new version of the model that has been reviewed by our technical committees, and before the Council today, has not been approved or adopted in the PSC forum and is still subject to change.

In recognition of the differences in review schedules between the international and domestic processes, I recommend the Council grant no more than a tentative acceptance of the model basic framework and function. Formal Council acceptance of the model should not occur until completion of the PSC model review process and after the Council's technical committees have had an opportunity to review the final version. Although no major changes are anticipated, I believe this is the most prudent action to take at this point in time.

PFMC  
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