SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON REVIEW OF 2003 FISHERIES AND SUMMARY OF 2004 STOCK ABUNDANCE ESTIMATES

Mr. Dell Simmons, Chair of the Salmon Technical Team (STT), reviewed the 2003 ocean salmon fisheries and preliminary salmon stock abundance estimates for 2004 for the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). All natural coho salmon stocks that are not "exceptions" met their conservation objectives in 2003. There were three stocks of chinook salmon that failed to meet their conservation objectives or guidelines in 2003:

1. The 2003 ocean harvest rate of 20.6% for age-4 chinook from the Klamath River Fall stock exceeded the target rate of 16%.
2. Impacts to the Snake River fall chinook stock were underestimated in 2003 because of changes in the Canadian commercial troll fishery.
3. The conservation objective for the spring/summer natural stock in the Quillayute River was not met.

Management actions to prevent a re-occurrence of these problems in 2004 may be needed.

Ocean abundance forecasts for coho salmon in 2004 are sufficiently high that all conservation objectives are expected to be met this year. However, the expected ocean abundance of Snake River Fall chinook, in conjunction with expected impacts by the Canadian commercial troll fishery, make this a stock of concern for 2004 management.

The SSC has a few recommendations to improve the usefulness of the STT reports. Tables I-1 and I-2 in *Preseason Report I (Stock Abundance Analysis for 2004 Ocean Salmon Fisheries)* present several years of preseason predictors for coho and chinook stocks under Council management. The SSC requests the STT add postseason estimates to these tables, where available, to facilitate a reader's ability to compare abundance predictions with previous years' actual abundances. To facilitate review of the overall performance of the various preseason predictors a graphical representation of the data in Tables II-8 and III-1 would be helpful.

The SSC also requests the preseason abundance estimates include a statistical measure of variability such as confidence intervals or coefficients of variation when possible. Without variance estimates it is difficult to assess the likelihood of meeting management objectives and the risks to sensitive stocks for the proposed fishing seasons.

PFMC
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