

IDENTIFICATION OF STOCKS NOT MEETING CONSERVATION
OBJECTIVES FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS

Situation: Each year, exclusive of stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Salmon Technical Team (STT) must identify any of the natural salmon stocks with conservation objectives in Table 3-1 of the salmon FMP that have failed to meet their spawner escapement objective in each of the past three years. For any stock so identified, which is not an exception to the overfishing concern, the salmon FMP requires the STT and Habitat Committee (HC) to work with state and tribal fishery managers to complete an assessment of the cause of the conservation shortfalls and provide recommendations to the Council for stock recovery. Based on those recommendations, the Council must take actions within one year of an identified concern to prevent overfishing and begin rebuilding the stock.

In the case of natural stocks which have failed to achieve their spawner objective in each of the past three years, but are exceptions under the salmon FMP overfishing criteria, the STT, HC, and Council should: (1) confirm that harvest impacts in Council fisheries continue to be less than five percent, (2) identify the probable cause of the current stock depression, (3) continue to monitor the status of the stocks, and (4) advocate measures to improve stock productivity.

The salmon FMP also requires that for any stock projected to fall short of its conservation objective, the Council should notify pertinent fishery and habitat managers, and request the cause be identified, if possible. If the stock in question has not met its conservation objective in the previous two years, the Council will request the pertinent state and tribal managers to do a formal assessment of the primary factors leading to the shortfalls and report their conclusions and recommendations to the Council no later than the March meeting prior to the next salmon season.

Table D-1 (Exhibit D.1.a, Attachment 1) has been extracted from the STT's Preseason Report I. It indicates that only one stock, Grays Harbor fall chinook, has not achieved its natural spawner escapement objectives in each of the three most recent years. However, this stock is an **exception** under the overfishing concern criteria by virtue of historical harvest impacts of less than five percent in Council-managed ocean salmon fisheries.

Council Action:

- 1. Identify naturally spawning stocks failing to meet their spawner escapement objectives in each of the past three years (exclusive of stocks listed under the ESA).**
- 2. Confirm implementation of the actions required by the Council's overfishing concern procedures in the salmon FMP. (For stocks that are exceptions to the overfishing concerns, these actions involve confirming continued low impacts by Council fisheries, identifying the probable cause of the depression, monitoring the status of the stocks, and advocating measures to improve stock productivity.)**

3. **Identify naturally spawning stocks projected to fall short of their conservation objectives and notify the appropriate parties, requesting a formal assessment of the primary factors leading to the shortfalls if the stock(s) have fallen short for the two most recent years.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit D.1.a, Attachment 1: Table D-1.
2. Exhibit D.1.b, Supplemental STT Report: Report of the Salmon Technical Team

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Report of the Salmon Technical Team (STT)
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comments
- e. **Council Action:** Identify Any Actions Necessary Under the Council's Overfishing Review Procedure

Chuck Tracy
Dell Simmons

PFMC
03/19/04