

THE ANNUAL PRESEASON STOCK ABUNDANCE PROCESS

From spring through fall, ocean fisheries are monitored for the estimation of harvest and coded-wire-tagged (CWT) contributions to that harvest. Beginning in the fall around September, in-river run and harvest are monitored along with CWT contributions. Fish are also counted at hatcheries and CWTs are collected. In the Klamath Basin, all monitoring programs also collect scale samples for determining the age structure of the harvest, hatcheries returns, and escapement in the main stem of the rivers as well as in the various tributaries where chinook spawn. These in-river monitoring programs continue through the end of spawning which could be as late as December for the fall run.

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) working for the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) meets in mid January to produce “The Review of Ocean Fisheries”, available on the Internet at <http://www.pcouncil.org/salmon/salsafe.html>. This report compiles and reports findings of harvest and escapement of the salmon monitoring programs from California, Oregon, and Washington.

The Klamath River Technical Advisory Team meets in early February to estimate the in-river run size at age of Klamath Fall chinook and makes estimates of September 1, ocean abundance at age for this stock. The resulting report is the “Ocean Abundance Projection and Prospective Harvest Levels for Klamath River Fall Chinook, 2005 Season”, and is published on the Internet at <http://pacific.fws.gov/yreka/kfmc.html>. In mid February, the STT meets to produce the “Preseason Report I Stock Abundance Analysis for 2005 Ocean Salmon Fisheries” which contains ocean abundance estimates for all PFMC managed stocks and is made available on the Internet at <http://www.pcouncil.org/salmon/salpre.html>. The STT uses these ocean abundance estimates as a starting population size for various ocean fishery harvest models. These models will be used in the annual March and April PFMC meetings to evaluate proposed fishing seasons compliance with the appropriate PFMC fishery management plan objectives and compliance with state and federal endangered species acts consultation standards.

The Department of Fish and Game’s Ocean Salmon Project holds its annual “Salmon Informational Meeting” after the STT produces the Preseason Report I to discuss the possibilities for the 2005 fishing season and take public input regarding season structure. Anyone interested in participating in the process is welcome to attend any of the meetings or send written comments to PFMC.