

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON SALMON METHODOLOGY REVIEW

Representatives of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife presented a brief report to the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on Area 5 and 6 chinook mark selective sport fisheries conducted in 2003 and 2004. These pilot fisheries began in early July each year and were managed as quota fisheries for 3,500 retained Chinook. Chinook stocks encountered in this area originate primarily from Puget Sound, the Columbia River, and southern British Columbia.

Data on encounter rates and coded-wire tag (CWT) recoveries provide information regarding some aspects of Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) model performance, but the results presented provided few insights into the ability of the FRAM to accurately model the impacts of mark selective fisheries on naturally spawning chinook stocks of interest to the Council. The fisheries were developed to evaluate monitoring programs and operational considerations in the conduct of mark-selective fisheries for chinook, such as compliance with mark-retention restrictions and the accuracy of data collected from angler interviews. The magnitude of the fisheries was too small to expect sufficient data to be collected to estimate stock-specific impacts through analysis of CWT recovery data.

There are inherent structural limitations for using chinook FRAM to evaluate mark-selective fisheries. Chinook FRAM is a single year model, while impacts of mark-selective fisheries in pre-terminal areas can be expected to accrue over multiple years. The STT reiterates our recommendation from April of this year. As long as chinook mark selective fisheries remain 'small' in preterminal fishing areas or are confined to terminal areas, the STT believes further technical review of chinook FRAM for mark selective fisheries is not necessary. The STT believes that FRAM should not be used for large, preterminal fisheries without further documentation and review by the SSC and commitments are made to collect the data necessary for evaluation through a well-designed monitoring program.

PFMC
11/02/04