

**SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT ISSUES**

**SELECTIVE COHO FISHERIES AND ALLOCATION IN THE NORTH OF CAPE
FALCON SALMON FISHERIES**

The Council's *Pacific Coast Salmon Plan* (FMP) has historically divided the coho salmon north of Cape Falcon among non-Indian gear sectors by a percentage of landed catch (Appendix A) under regulations that provide for retention of all fish, regardless of mark status.

From 2000 through 2004, the procedures employed by the Salmon Technical Team (STT) implemented sector and port allocations based on marked coho expected to be in the landed catch under mark-selective fisheries. The deviation from the FMP has not been a large concern during the last five years of selective fisheries for two reasons: (1) all non-Indian coho fisheries north of Cape Falcon have been mark-selective; and (2) there have been enough coho available to allow each sector to have a full season, although trades have been used to achieve this objective. This situation may change with both sport and commercial fisheries exploring the possibility of non-selective coho fisheries north of Cape Falcon in future years. With the advent of mark-selective fishing for coho, release mortality becomes a much larger percent of the total mortality. Although both sectors accrue release mortality with selective fishing, a higher hooking mortality rate is used for modeling the troll fishery (26%) compared to the sport fishery (14%). This difference in assumed incidental mortality rates between the two sectors means that for a given level of landed catch, more incidental mortalities will be assigned to the troll fishery than to the sport fishery.

With both commercial, and sport sectors and sport subareas exploring non-selective and/or selective coho fisheries (even both in the same season), the fairness of coho allocation will become more of an issue as each group tries to maximize benefits from its share, and trades between selective and non-selective quotas are proposed. The STT needs clear direction from the Council in order to carry out its task of modeling impacts of proposed fisheries without the STT becoming embroiled in allocation issues.

The STT recommends that total allowable catch (TAC) allocations be made in accordance with the provisions of the FMP using the following procedure:

1. The STT would establish the TAC using a standardized fishing regime with all fisheries being non-selective.
2. The TAC would then be allocated among sectors and ports in accordance with the provisions of the Framework Plan.
3. Conservation and allocation impacts on each critical stock would be estimated by time-area-fishery strata using FRAM.
4. Each sector and/or sport subarea could then propose a selective fishery if they choose. The fisheries could then be modeled as a mix of selective and non-selective, or all one way or the other.

5. Once the allowable impacts on constraining stocks has been estimated for each sector and sport subarea, inseason trades would have to be conducted in the currency based on impacts on critical stocks.

The STT believes this method would meet the intent of the FMP and the historical allocation schedule, and recommends this approach be used for at least one management cycle. The method will increase the time required for analysis and modeling, so fewer alternatives can be considered during planning processes.

Appendix A – Allocation Schedule North of cape Falcon

5.3.1.2 Allocation Schedule Between Gear Types

Initial commercial and recreational allocation will be determined by the schedule of percentages of total allowable harvest as follows:

TABLE 5-1. Initial commercial/recreational harvest allocation schedule north of Cape Falcon.

Coho			Chinook		
Harvest (thousands of fish)	Percentage ^{a/}		Harvest (thousands of fish)	Percentage ^{a/}	
	Troll	Recreational		Troll	Recreational
0-300	25	75	0-100	50	50
>300	60	40	>100-150	60	40
			>150	70	30

a/ The allocation must be calculated in additive steps when the harvest level exceeds the initial tier.

6.5.3 Species-Specific and Other Selective Fisheries

6.5.3.1 Guidelines

In addition to the all-species and single or limited species seasons established for the commercial and recreational fisheries, other species-limited fisheries, such as "ratio" fisheries and fisheries selective for marked or hatchery fish, may be adopted by the Council during the pre-season regulatory process. In adopting such a fishery, the Council will consider the following guidelines:

1. Harvestable fish of the target species are available.
2. Harvest impacts on incidental species will not exceed allowable levels determined in the management plan.
3. Proven, documented, selective gear exists (if not, only an experimental fishery should be considered).
4. Significant wastage of incidental species will not occur or a written economic analysis demonstrates the landed value of the target species exceeds the potential landed value of the wasted species.
5. The species specific or ratio fishery will occur in an acceptable time and area where wastage can be minimized and target stocks are maximally available.
6. Implementation of selective fisheries for marked or hatchery fish must be in accordance with U.S. v. Washington stipulation and order concerning co-management and mass marking (Case No. 9213, Subproceeding No. 96-3) and any subsequent stipulations or orders of the U.S. District Court, and consistent with international objectives under the Pacific Salmon Treaty (e.g., to ensure the integrity of the coded-wire tag program).

6.5.3.2 Selective Fisheries Which May Change Allocation Percentages North of Cape Falcon

As a tool to increase management flexibility to respond to changing harvest opportunities, the Council may implement deviations from the specified port area allocations and/or gear allocations to increase harvest opportunity through fisheries that are selective for marked salmon stocks (e.g., marked hatchery salmon). The benefits of any selective fishery will vary from year to year and fishery to fishery depending on stock abundance, the mix of marked and unmarked fish, projected hook-and-release mortality rates, and public acceptance. These factors should be considered on an annual and case-by-case basis when utilizing selective fisheries. The deviations for selective fisheries are subordinate to the allocation priorities in Section 5.3.1.1 and may be allowed under the following management constraints:

- 1. Selective fisheries will first be considered during the months of August and/or September. However, the Council may consider selective fisheries at other times, depending on year to year circumstances identified in the preceding paragraph.*
- 2. The total impacts within each port area or gear group on the critical natural stocks of management concern are not greater than those under the original allocation without the selective fisheries.*
- 3. Other allocation objectives (i.e., treaty Indian, or ocean and inside allocations) are satisfied during negotiations in the North of Cape Falcon Forum.*
- 4. The selective fishery is assessed against the guidelines in Section 6.5.3.1.*
- 5. Selective fishery proposals need to be made in a timely manner in order to allow sufficient time for analysis and public comment on the proposal before the Council finalizes its fishery recommendations.*

If the Council chooses to deviate from the specified port and/or gear allocations, the process for establishing a selective fishery would be as follows:

- 1. Allocate the TAC among the sectors and port areas according to the basic FMP allocation process described in Section 5.3.1 without the selective fishery.*
- 2. Each gear group or port area may utilize the critical natural stock impacts allocated to its portion of the TAC to access additional harvestable, marked fish, over and above the harvest share established in step one, within the limits of the management constraints listed in the preceding paragraph.*

6.5.4 Procedures for Calculating Quotas

Quotas will be based on the total allowable ocean harvest and the allocation plan as determined by the procedures of Chapter 5.

To the extent adjustable quotas are used, they may be subject to some or all of the following inseason adjustments:

- 1. For coho, private hatchery contribution to the ocean fisheries in the OPI area.*
- 2. Unanticipated loss of shakers (bycatch mortality of undersized fish or unauthorized fish of another species that have to be returned to the water) during the season. (Adjustment for coho hooking mortality during any all-salmon-except-coho season will be made when the quotas are established.)*
- 3. Any catch that take place in fisheries within territorial waters that are inconsistent with federal regulations in the EEZ.*

4. *If the ability to update inseason stock abundance is developed in the future, adjustments to total allowable harvest could be made where appropriate.*
5. *The ability to redistribute quotas between subareas depending on the performance toward achieving the overall quota in the area.*

Changes in the quotas as a result of the inseason adjustment process will be avoided unless the changes are of such magnitude that they can be validated by the STT and Council, given the precision of the original estimates.

The basis for determining the private hatchery contribution in (1) above will be either coded-wire tag analysis or analysis of scale patterns, whichever is determined by the STT to be more accurate, or another more accurate method that may be developed in the future, as determined by the STT and Council.

In reference to (4) and (5) above, if reliable techniques become available for making inseason estimates of stock abundance, and provision is made in any season for its use, a determination of techniques to be applied will be made by the Council and discussed during the preseason regulatory process.