

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
REVIEW OF 2004 FISHERIES AND SUMMARY OF 2005 STOCK ABUNDANCE
ESTIMATES

Mr. Dell Simmons and Mr. Allen Grover summarized aspects of the Review of 2004 Ocean Salmon Fisheries and Preseason Report I for the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). Discussion centered around Klamath fall chinook. The Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM) predicted a 15% age-4 exploitation rate for 2004. The postseason exploitation rate was 52.4%. The SSC was told this was because Klamath contact rates were much higher than previously observed, although contact rates for other chinook stocks were not unusual. In addition to high harvest in 2004, warm water has caused mortality of both adults and outmigrating juveniles in the past few years. The Council should consider the possible effects of poor Klamath inriver conditions on recruitment of future runs in order to anticipate possible continuing constraints on the coastwide chinook fishery.

A chronic problem for the SSC in reviewing salmon management issues is the lack of lead time and opportunity to identify issues and prepare documentation during the preseason process. Issues, such as this year's low Klamath abundance and its likely affect on fisheries, often emerge only in the weeks before the March Council meeting – too late for effective SSC review. An examination of the contact rate and catch projection portions of the KOHM would be appropriate for a salmon methodology review in 2005.

PFMC
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