

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON KLAMATH RIVER
FALL CHINOOK CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) recommends the Council provide direction to the Scientific and Statistical Committee to review the Salmon Technical Team's "Klamath River Fall Chinook Stock-Recruitment Analysis.

The SAS concentrated their discussions on the Klamath Fall Chinook Conservation Objective and made it clear that their intention was not to change the Conservation Objective but are asking for some flexibility within the fishery management plan (FMP).

The flexibility requested is quite vague to even the SAS at this time. It was agreed by most members of the SAS some "criteria" that would allow flexibility to fish below the 35,000 escapement floor was needed. That criteria is yet to be identified but SAS felt the criteria could be identified through the FMP amendment scoping process.

The example of one criteria that might have been used for the 2005 salmon season was the very large predicted abundance of Sacramento Fall Chinook. The lack of flexibility in the FMP to fish below the floor caused great hardship on the West Coast Salmon Industry and support businesses.

Flexibility to fish below the conservation objective would have relieved some of the economic hardship induced by the commercial troll fishery in 2005, provided additional opportunity to ocean recreational and in-river (Klamath) fisheries and provided some additional level of Klamath Fall Chinook harvest for Tribal needs.

The SAS requests at this time the Council proceed with a plan amendment process to consider additional flexibility to the current FMP covering Klamath Fall Chinook.

PFMC
09/21/05