Agenda Item C.2.c
Supplemental STT Report
March 2006

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON FORT BRAGG MARCH 15, 2006 COMMERCIAL FISHERY OPENING

The graphic I am presenting shows the distribution of Klamath fall Chinook impacts by month in the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM) cells. Red areas indicate time and area cells that we know from the coded-wire tagging (CWT) recovery records impact Klamath fish. Any further fishing in these cells will result in the KOHM estimate of Klamath impacts increasing. No Klamath tags have been observed in the green cells, even though fisheries have occurred in those cells in past years. The larger dark grey areas are showing KOHM cells with no observed Klamath tags. However, the waters these cells represent have not been open to fishing in the last 20 years. The chance of encountering a Klamath fish in these cells is not known. The stippled grey cells represent areas that have been open and had no observed Klamath recoveries. However, unlike the green cells, catch and effort in these stippled cells has been very low. Because of the low catches in these cells, the team does not believe that the lack of CWT recoveries is a reliable indicator of Klamath stock absence. The Salmon Technical Team (STT) is concerned that opening areas with little or no historic effort will result in unpredictable, potentially large, increases in effort, with a corresponding increase in the potential for Klamath impacts.

The bottom portion of the display shows the recent 5-year average catch of all stocks in each cell. The numbers in parentheses show associated effort.

The Council's decision here is whether to allow fisheries that are open or are scheduled to open between now and May 1 to occur. Based on the information I have presented here and the STT's collected professional judgment, we believe that it is likely that allowing further fishing before May 1 between Cape falcon and Point Sur will result in increased impacts on Klamath fall Chinook.

PFMC
03/07/06