

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON FMP AMENDMENT
SCOPING FOR DE MINIMIS FISHERIES ASSOCIATED WITH KLAMATH RIVER FALL
CHINOOK IMPACTS

In November 2005 the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the Salmon Technical Team report “Klamath River Fall Chinook Stock-Recruitment Analysis” and found the report technically sound. The SSC endorsed the Ricker model analysis as the best available science for evaluating the escapement floor in the Klamath River and observed that maximum sustainable yield escapement “...would likely be larger than 40,700 spawners...”

The Council is considering an amendment to the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to revise Klamath River Fall Chinook management and provide some flexibility when stocks are subject to a Conservation Alert. Currently, under a Conservation Alert, the FMP requires the Council to “close salmon fisheries within Council jurisdiction that impact the stock.” One suggestion was to amend the FMP to allow a *de minimis* fishery. However, it was unclear how a *de minimis* exploitation rate would be established and evaluated. It was also unclear how much fishery relief could be attained with a *de minimis* rate of, for example, five percent.

Several alternative management control rules were proposed for consideration in the FMP amendment. The SSC encourages exploration of these and, perhaps, other control rules. It may be useful for the Council to look at analogies with groundfish management which includes a control rule linking exploitation rates to biomass, even below the overfished threshold.

PFMC
03/09/06

Other SSC comments;

The predictions are very imprecise. We suggest that improvements could be made by examining residuals from the predictions. Autocorrelation in the residuals is strong, especially for age 3.

Exploitation rate errors are not coupled with prediction errors

The recent model failures could be partly due to economic factors. These effort shifts could have been driven by market forces.