

IDENTIFICATION OF STOCKS NOT MEETING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Each year, exclusive of stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Salmon Technical Team (STT) must identify any of the natural salmon stocks with conservation objectives in Table 3-1 of the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that have failed to meet their conservation objective in each of the past three years. For any stock so identified that does not meet the exception criteria, an Overfishing Concern is triggered. An Overfishing Concern requires the Council direct the STT and Habitat Committee (HC) to work with state and tribal fishery managers to complete an assessment of the cause of the conservation shortfalls and provide recommendations to the Council for stock recovery. Based on those recommendations, the Council must take actions within one year of an identified concern to prevent overfishing and begin rebuilding the stock.

In the case of natural stocks which have failed to achieve their conservation objective in each of the past three years, but are exceptions under the salmon FMP overfishing criteria, the STT, HC, and Council should: (1) confirm that harvest impacts in Council fisheries continue to be less than five percent, (2) identify the probable cause of the current stock depression, (3) continue to monitor the status of the stocks, and (4) advocate measures to improve stock productivity.

The salmon FMP states that any stock projected to fall short of its conservation objective triggers a Conservation Alert. A Conservation Alert requires the Council to notify pertinent fishery and habitat managers, request the cause be identified (if possible), and to close salmon fisheries within Council jurisdiction that impact the stock. If the stock in question has not met its conservation objective in the previous two years, the Council shall request the pertinent state and tribal managers to complete a formal assessment of the primary factors leading to the shortfalls and report their conclusions and recommendations to the Council no later than the March meeting prior to the next salmon season.

Table E.1.b (Agenda Item E.1.b, STT Report) has been extracted from the STT's Preseason Report I and updated with any more recently available information. It indicates that no stock subject to the Overfishing Criteria has failed to achieve its conservation objective in each of the three most recent years; however, Klamath River Fall chinook did not meet the conservation objective in the two most recent years assessed (2004 and 2005). Queets River spring/summer chinook have not met their conservation objectives in the most recent three years assessed (2003, 2004, and 2005), and Quillayute spring/summer chinook have not met their conservation objective in the most recent two years assessed (2004 and 2005). However, these latter two stocks are exceptions under the Overfishing Concern criteria by virtue of historical harvest impacts of less than five percent in Council-managed ocean salmon fisheries. Klamath River fall Chinook is the only stock projected to fall short of conservation objectives in 2006, and therefore has triggered a Conservation Alert, and because the stock has not met its conservation objective the past two years, a formal assessment is required.

Council Action:

1. Identify naturally spawning stocks failing to meet their conservation objectives (exclusive of stocks listed under the ESA).
2. Identify naturally spawning stocks projected to not meet their conservation objectives in 2006 (exclusive of stocks listed under the ESA).
3. Confirm implementation of the actions required by the Council's Overfishing Concern and Conservation Alert procedures in the salmon FMP. (For stocks that are exceptions to the Overfishing Concerns, these actions involve confirming continued low impacts by Council fisheries, identifying the probable cause of the depression, monitoring the status of the stocks, and advocating measures to improve stock productivity.)

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.1.b, STT Report: Table E.1.b.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Report of the Salmon Technical Team (STT)
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Identify Any Actions Necessary Under the Council Overfishing Review Procedure

Chuck Tracy
Dell Simmons

PFMC
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