

ROLE OF THE KLAMATH FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (KFMC)

If funding for the KFMC and the Klamath River Basin Fisheries Task Force (Task Force) expires in September of this year, it will affect the Salmon Technical Team's (STT) ability to advise the Council on the effects of ocean salmon regulations on Klamath fall Chinook. Impacts can be grouped under two categories: research and monitoring activities, and stock assessment. Research and monitoring activities funded through the Task Force, include gathering basic biological data, such as redd surveys, carcass counts, creel surveys, and scale and coded-wire tag (CWT) collection and reading. These data are used in stock assessment and cohort analysis to make annual estimates of age-specific escapement, inriver and ocean harvest rates, and total run size. In turn, those estimates are used by the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM) to forecast age-specific ocean abundance, harvest rates, and escapement of Klamath fall Chinook.

If funding for the KFMC expires, some members of the STT could assume the responsibility for completing the analyses currently performed by the Klamath River Technical Advisory Team (KRTAT) which are crucial to the Council process. Several key members of the KRTAT serve on the STT or already have a close working relationship with the STT. However, the basic biological data must still be collected through on-going monitoring programs including the completion of the annual KRTAT "Age Composition Report" If these data are not available due to the lack of funding for the Task Force, the STT will not be able to conduct the Klamath analyses critical to the Council.

PFMC
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