SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK OVERFISHING ASSESSMENT PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Chuck Tracy reviewed progress on developing a Klamath River Fall Chinook Overfishing Assessment Report. The document is in an early draft stage. The authors should make an effort to provide graphics that are simple, clear, and informative. Sections appear to have been written independently and assembled with little effort to integrate them. There are several conclusions in the Harvest Management section, but the overall document contains no overall conclusions or recommendations.

In Section 4, Harvest Factors, it is pointed out that with random errors the chance of achieving a goal in any year is 50% and the chance of missing it in three consecutive years is 1 in 8 or higher. When managing for the escapement floor, as has been the recent practice with Klamath fall Chinook, there is a high probability of the stock being classified as overfished in the normal course of events. In this context, the over-fishing determination should establish whether the failure to meet escapement goals for three years is the result of specific adverse factors rather than a sequence of random events.

The harvest section provides a reasonable standard for quantifying factors that affect escapement in a way that allows comparison of relative importance. Section 5, assessing other factors, should be structured in the same way to the extent possible, recognizing the lack of quantitative information on some factors' impacts on survival. This would facilitate a comparison of the relative roles many factors play relative to current escapement patterns.

As the report is currently structured, harvest issues are considered separately from habitat and productivity issues. If the intent is to identify all factors that led up to the current over-fishing declaration, there needs to be a section in the report that integrates all factors whether or not they lie within the Council's management jurisdiction. The SSC suggests adding a new section that considers contributing factors in combination to provide a more complete basis for evaluating the extent to which each factor contributed to the escapement failures and for communicating these factors to responsible agencies.

The lack of integration of marine survival into the escapement time series, or any discussion of the role fluctuations of marine survival may have played in the current situation is an obvious gap in the analysis. The Salmon Technical Team's maximum sustainable yield report from 2005 shows that including marine survival in a recruitment model substantially improves the fit. This information should be used quantitatively in the current report.

PFMC
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