

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL
REPORT ON SALMON METHODOLOGY REVIEW

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) continues to support the genetic stock identification study and recommends any experimental fisheries permit necessary to carry out the proposed study design be given the highest priority for National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) approval to allow for implementation in 2008.

The SAS supports the proposed use of multiple hatchery stocks to represent Lower Columbia River natural tules in the Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM). Including more stocks in the FRAM representation should provide better estimates of exploitation rates because of larger sample sizes and wider distribution patterns. However, the SAS does not think the Grays River population is representative of natural spawning populations in the Lower Columbia River due to past hatchery practices and past and current habitat conditions. It is not reasonable to expect recovery of a Grays River natural population given these conditions, and it has been repeatedly demonstrated that cutting back harvest is not the way to rebuilding depressed salmon runs. The Grays River population should not be used to determine a recovery exploitation rate for Lower Columbia River natural tules.

PFMC
11/05/07