

**PACIFIC SALMON TREATY
MEETING SUMMARY**

The Pacific Salmon Commission's 2007-08 meeting cycle marked the conclusion of the renegotiation process for the chum and coho agreements. Chinook negotiations are on-going and are being conducted at the Commission level. The discussions are scheduled to conclude by June to allow sufficient time for administrative review and adoption for implementation in 2009.

Both the new coho and chum agreements are best described as refinements to the recent management approach utilized for the respective species. For coho, only administrative amendments were made regarding this agreement. It was concluded that the coho agreement was performing well and focus should be directed at completing the outstanding technical tasks. Relative to the chum agreement, greater specificity was included on the harvest limits that would be implemented by the U.S. in response to critical status of the Fraser River chum. In addition, the overage/underage policy was clarified and now a stepped approach based on stock status.

The primary focus of the 2008 renegotiations was on Chinook and the majority of the discussions this meeting cycle were spent on addressing chinook issues. The outstanding issue remains the appropriate harvest levels given the stock conservation issues both Parties have raised. It remains encouraging that both Parties are proposing reductions in response to conservation concerns. The U.S. position remains that the Chinook regime should be adjusted as necessary to ensure that the total exploitation rates on natural stocks and the resulting escapement are consistent with the goals and objectives of the stocks impacted. Finding the balance that achieves this objective to the satisfaction of both Parties is the challenge that the Commissioners continue to struggle with.

Finally, relative to the annual preseason planning discussion with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the 2008 Manager-to-Manager meeting is for March 25. The intent is to exchange preseason expectations of stock status and anticipated fishery structure which can be readily incorporated into model inputs. It is anticipated that the Canadian stock status and fishery structure will be similar to last year. Thompson coho remains in critical status and conservation concerns still exist regarding the lower Georgia Strait and WCVI chinook stocks. Conservation concerns regarding these stocks will shape the 2008 Canadian fisheries.

The co-managers will confer with the Salmon Technical Team regarding the information that is received at the meeting with Canadian representatives. It is anticipated that any new information obtained on the Canadian fishing levels and structure will be incorporated into our domestic preseason planning efforts as appropriate.