SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON METHODOLOGY REVIEW PROCESS AND PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION FOR 2008

Each year, the Council sets salmon seasons for the current calendar year. This task must be accomplished based on projections that are available during the spring of each year. However, the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM) does not estimate impacts to future broods in fisheries occurring in the fall time frame, September to November of the current year. Impacts from fisheries occurring in that period, the "credit card" debt, are accounted for in the analysis conducted the following spring.

Fall fisheries are historic and valuable fisheries; however without an estimate of the fish likely to be caught in the credit card fishery (the magnitude of "credit card" debt), the ability to fish the following year can be placed at risk. The magnitude of the uncertainty is not known until after the fact, and the size of the debt can range from insignificant in years of plenty, to unacceptable in years of scarcity.

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) requests that the Salmon Technical Team (STT) develop some type of credit card catch projection methodology to provide us with some guidance regarding the size of the debt and the risks that we are exposing next year's fishery to. Along with the development of this projection methodology, it is imperative that the September 1 maturation boundary for Klamath River fall Chinook be reviewed, as this will have a direct influence on the projection of fall impacts.

We recognize that the availability of quality data may not support as detailed a projection as is currently used; however the absence of any kind of credit card projection of Klamath catch overly complicates the creation of our season structure. We strongly urge that the STT address this issue and develop a modeling methodology that will allow us to assess, and thereby better manage, the following year's fishery.

The SAS also recommends the Scientific and Statistical Committee review the new Sacramento Index prediction and the Sacramento harvest model.

PFMC
4/09/08