

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE
KLAMATH RIVER FALL CHINOOK REBUILDING STRATEGY

In regard to Recommendation 4, which states “During periods of stock rebuilding fall fishing opportunity in areas impacting Klamath River fall Chinook (KRFC) abundance should be restricted,” the Salmon Advisory Subpanel recommends it be modified to recommend that fall fishing impacts be modeled preseason with consideration for a revision to the birth date for KRFC. If it is not possible to model harvest impacts in all fall fisheries, then we recommend that the word “restricted” be changed to “use a precautionary approach.”

We also suggest adding a recommendation to develop a workgroup to investigate the mitigation needs and develop a propagation and release strategy that strives to optimize natural production as well as hatchery mitigation, rather than continually targeting minimum spawning escapement objectives. More progressive hatchery practices would address concerns regarding genetic integrity and expedite recovery of KRFC at a level in substantial excess of the floor. Failure to consider the downstream degraded conditions generated by the dams as a component of the mitigation responsibility results in all associated mortality becoming the burden of parties not responsible for the shortfall caused by these dams. This results in the fisheries being held accountable for the decline of the stock of concern when restricting harvest results in no tangible benefit toward rebuilding the stock.

PFMC
4/10/08