

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
PROGRESS REPORT ON CAUSES OF THE 2008 SALMON FAILURE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed progress of the Scientific Working Group to Evaluate the Decline in Sacramento River Fall Chinook Salmon and Other West Coast Salmon in discussion with Dr. Robert Kope and Mr. Chuck Tracy. The SSC considered the revised list of possible causes and agreed that it was valuable to eliminate as many items as possible. However, the SSC could not evaluate the list as presented because there were no rationales provided for the deleted items. With regard to the remaining items, the SSC is concerned that data may not be available to address all of them. Even for those items with adequate data the working group will be challenged to provide rigorous analyses between now and April. The SSC recommends that the working group consider whether the recent failure was an acute event or the result of a chronic problem, as this will have bearing on the appropriate management response in the event of future failures. For example, if the resilience of the stock has been reduced, this may affect the response of the stock to climate fluctuations or other stressors.

The SSC will review the working group's draft document in April, 2009.

PFMC
9/08/08