

## WORK GROUP REPORT ON CAUSES OF THE 2008 SALMON FAILURE

As a result of low returns of Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) in 2007 and even lower forecasts for 2008, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted the most restrictive salmon fisheries in the history of the west coast in 2008. In response to these severe restrictions, the Council requested the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) convene a scientific forum to investigate the potential causes of the decline in the status of Council-related salmon stocks, in particular SRFC, and if possible make recommendations on how to improve the advance forecasting of salmon abundance. The NMFS Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers convened the 2008 West Coast Salmon Work Group (Work Group), made up of scientists from Federal, state, and tribal entities and Universities, to begin investigating the cause of the 2008 salmon failure.

Since its last update to the Council in September 2008, the Work Group has developed an initial draft report, which was released for internal review on January 30, 2009. The Work Group then met on March 4, 2009 in Santa Cruz to review suggested edits and develop a set of recommendations. The subsequent draft of the report was provided in the briefing materials for review by the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and other advisory bodies. Subsequent to the Council's review, a manuscript will be submitted for peer review to a scientific journal in spring or summer of 2009. Drs. Churchill Grimes and John Stein from the Southwest and Northwest Fisheries Science Centers will summarize the Work Group report (Agenda Item H.2.b, Work Group Report).

### **Council Task:**

- 1. Consider recommendations of the Work Group.**
- 2. Make recommendations for finalizing the report.**
- 3. Discuss implications for future Council actions.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.2.b, Work Group Report: What Caused the Sacramento River Fall Chinook Salmon Stock Collapse?

### **Agenda Order:**

- a. Agenda Item Overview
  - b. Work Group Report
  - c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - d. Public Comment
  - e. Council Discussion
- Chuck Tracy  
Churchill Grimes, John Stein

PFMC  
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