

**SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON TENTATIVE ADOPTION OF 2015 OCEAN
 SALMON MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

To evaluate the impacts of proposed management alternatives in March, the Salmon Technical Team (STT) modeled the impacts in northern fisheries for coho using 2013 Canadian fisheries. Since then, we have received more detailed information on Canadian fishing plans for coho in 2015. These updates to the assumptions about Canadian coho fisheries have slightly increased the impacts on Puget Sound and coastal coho stocks.

For Chinook fisheries, in March we used the preseason fishing effort in 2014 from Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) for northern fisheries. In late March the Analytical Work Group (AWG) of the Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) distributed a preliminary model calibration (#1503) to the full CTC for review. The calibration produced post-season indices for 2014 (Table 1) and pre-season indices for 2015 (Table 2). The total allowable catch (TAC) in the aggregate abundance-based management (AABM) fisheries is set by tiered harvest rates applied to abundance indices (AIs) generated by the CTC model. The pre-season AIs for all three AABM fisheries were in the highest tier in 2014. The post-season AIs for 2014 produced by calibration #1503 were substantially lower than their pre-season forecasts for all three AABM fisheries, but all remained in the highest harvest rate tier. The stock forecasts for 2015 have resulted in pre-season AIs in 2015 that are substantially reduced from the 2014 post-season values. Under these abundances, all three AABM fisheries would drop by one tier in their prescribed harvest rates.

Table 1. Preseason and Post-Season Abundance indices, associated allowable catches and the observed catches for the 2014 AABM fisheries.

Preseason			
	SEAK	NBC	WCVI
Abundance Index	2.57	1.99	1.20
Allowable Catch	439,400	290,300	205,400
Post-Season			
Abundance Index	2.13	1.68	1.03
Allowable Catch	367,100	245,100	176,300

Table 2. Abundance indices and associated allowable catches for the 2015 AABM Fisheries.

	SEAK	NBC	WCVI
Abundance Index	1.45	1.23	0.85
Allowable Catch	237,000	160,400	127,300

On April 7, the CTC convened a conference call to discuss acceptance of Calibration #1503. Alaskan members of the CTC declined to accept the results of the calibration. The SEAK troll fishery had exceptionally high catch per unit of effort (CPUE) in their fisheries last year and record CPUE in their winter fishery. Alaskan members of the CTC do not believe that the model calibration accurately reflects the actual abundance of Chinook salmon in SEAK, and are currently conducting analyses of catch rates, coded-wire tag recoveries, and genetic stock identification data to support their contention that Chinook abundance is higher than the SEAK AIs indicate. They propose to present the results of these analyses to the CTC in approximately two weeks, and then the bi-lateral committee will discuss how to proceed.

In the interim, following the usual practice of incorporating updates to northern fisheries between the March and April Council meetings, the co-managers have been using the TACs associated with AIs produced from CTC model calibration #1503 to model impacts in AABM fisheries during their North of Falcon process. In light of the uncertainty about the fisheries that will occur in Canadian and Alaskan fisheries, the STT seeks direction from the Council on what assumptions to use for these fisheries in assessing the impacts of management measures under consideration by the Council. Absent additional guidance, the STT proposes to use the TACs for AABM fisheries associated with CTC model calibration #1503.

PFMC
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