

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
REVIEW OF 2019 FISHERIES AND SUMMARY OF 2020 STOCK FORECASTS

Dr. Michael O'Farrell (Southwest Fisheries Science Center) and members of the Salmon Technical Team (STT) presented an overview to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) of the Review of 2019 Ocean Salmon Fisheries and the 2020 Preseason Report I and responded to questions. The SSC did not receive the 2020 Preseason Report I until February 28 and did not have adequate time for a thorough review.

The Council adopted five salmon rebuilding plans in 2019. Two Chinook stocks (Sacramento River fall Chinook and Klamath River fall Chinook) and two natural coho stocks (Queets and Juan de Fuca) remain overfished, defined as when the most recent three-year geometric mean of escapement is below the Minimum Stock Size Threshold (MSST). The Snohomish natural coho stock is now in the "not overfished/rebuilding" category, defined as when the most recent three-year geometric mean of escapement is greater than the MSST but is less than SMSY. No stocks were subject to overfishing in 2019.

The SSC endorses the forecasts for Willapa Bay natural coho (including the hatchery stray contribution), Sacramento River fall Chinook and Klamath River fall Chinook stocks as the best available science for use in 2020 salmon management to set acceptable biological catches and overfishing limits (Table V-5). In the future, the SSC encourages that the uncertainty of the forecasts be reported for these and other stocks.

In the Preseason I Report there are qualitative statements on the presence or absence of bias in some forecasts. The basis for these statements is not clear and the SSC recommends that a quantitative assessment of forecast bias be included in future reports. The SSC shares the concern of the STT that without an updated base period calibration for the Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model, the fisheries impacts to Upper Columbia River summer Chinook stock will be over-estimated and the fisheries impacts on other stocks under-represented in both Council fisheries and other fisheries along the coast.

PFMC
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