SUMMARY MINUTES

Scientific and Statistical Committee

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Double Tree Hotel - Columbia River
Deschutes Room
1401 N Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 97217
(503) 283-2111
March 5-6, 2001

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8 A.M. by Chair Cynthia Thomson. Dr. Don McIsaac, Executive Director, provided opening comments, noting that many of the items on the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) agenda were informational items. Thus, SSC statements were not anticipated to be necessary for many of these items. The SSC will be expected to provide a report on the B.2 and D.5.e. Review of the draft terms of reference for rebuilding plans (D.5.e) is an important topic for the Council and should receive high priority.

After a round of introductions, the meeting got underway.

The agenda was approved.

Members in Attendance

Dr. Brian Allee, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority, Portland, OR
Mr. Alan Byrne, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Nampa, ID
Mr. Robert Conrad, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Olympia, WA
Dr. Ramon Conser, National Marine Fisheries Service, La Jolla, CA
Dr. Michael Dalton, California State University, Monterey Bay, CA
Dr. Kevin Hill, California Department of Fish and Game, La Jolla, CA
Mr. Tom Jagielo, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, WA
Dr. Peter Lawson, National Marine Fisheries Service, Newport, OR
Dr. Stephen Ralston, National Marine Fisheries Service, Santa Cruz, CA
Ms. Cynthia Thomson, National Marine Fisheries Service, Santa Cruz, CA
Dr. Shijie Zhou, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Portland, OR

Members Absent

Dr. Robert Francis, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Dr. Gary Stauffer, National Marine Fisheries Service, Seattle, WA

Open Discussion

The SSC discussed the strong need for expertise in economics and social science on the SSC. In the recent past, review of economic analyses has not been a major focus of SSC work, largely because of the lack of formal economic analyses in Council documents. As this information is becoming critical to the Council process, the SSC should be equipped to provide guidance on these matters.

SSC Administrative Matters

The SSC reviewed subcommittee assignments from the past year and determined the composition of the subcommittees for 2001. Committee assignments are generally unchanged from 2000, except for the addition of new SSC members Drs. Dalton and Allee. Assignments are as follows:

Salmon	Groundfish	Coastal Pelagic Species	Highly Migratory Species	Economic

Brian Allee	Ray Conser	Michael Dalton	Alan Byrne	Mike Dalton, Chair
Alan Byrne	Michael Dalton	Ray Conser	Ray Conser	Cynthia Thomson
Robert Conrad	Tom Jagielo	Robert Francis, Chair	Kevin Hill, Chair	
Kevin Hill	Steve Ralston, Chair	Tom Jagielo	Cindy Thomson	
Pete Lawson, Chair	Gary Stauffer	Steve Ralston		
Shijie Zhou	Robert Francis	Gary Stauffer		

Scientific and Statistical Committee Comments to the Council

The following text contains SSC comments to the Council. (Related SSC discussion not included in written reports to the Council is provided in italicized text).

Salmon

Review of 2000 Fisheries and Summary of 2001 Stock Abundance Estimates

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) heard a summary of 2000 fisheries and projections for 2001 stock sizes from the Salmon Technical Team (STT). In general, stock abundances of coastal and Columbia River coho are predicted to be higher in 2001 than in recent years. This is especially true for Oregon Production Index (OPI) area hatchery fish. Washington coastal natural coho stocks are expected to be above their floor values. Oregon coastal natural coho are predicted to return at slightly below last year, but substantially above the parental spawner level. It remains to be seen whether this is the beginning of a trend toward higher marine survivals, or a "blip" following the 1998 El Niño, analogous to the peak returns of 1986. In either case, it is important to start planning now for the large hatchery surplus expected this fall. The Council's challenge is to take advantage of the hatchery production without adversely affecting wild stocks potentially beginning to stage a recovery. The SSC supports a fishery exploitation rate in the range of 0 to 8% on OCN coho based on the critically low 1998 parental spawning escapement, as described in the 2000 review of Amendment 13 of the salmon fishery management plan.

Chinook in 2001 are predicted to be similar in abundance to 2000. Notable exceptions are larger abundances of Klamath River age 4, and Columbia River Upriver Spring and Spring Creek Hatchery Fall chinook. California Central Valley fall chinook show a slight decline in recent years, but remain strong. Sacramento Winter Run chinook are likely to be a limiting factor for California chinook fisheries.

Preseason Report I presents stock size predictions to the nearest 100 fish, without any indication of the precision of these predictions. The SSC recommends that, in the future, predictions include a statistical measure of variability such as confidence limits or coefficients of variation. Without variance estimates it is impossible to assess the likelihood of meeting management objectives and the risks to sensitive stocks of proposed fishing seasons.

With larger hatchery stock sizes and mass-marked coho it is likely that the intensity of mark-selective fisheries will increase in the near future. Possible consequences of selective fisheries include difficulties in modeling nonlanded mortalities and reduction in our ability to assess stock composition from coded-wire tag (CWT) recoveries. Double index tagging experiments are designed to overcome some of these problems, but their usefulness has not been demonstrated. These fisheries are still in the experimental and developmental stages. The SSC recommends that a comprehensive review of selective fisheries be conducted no later than 2004. The review should focus on (1) the effectiveness of selective fisheries in reducing impacts on unmarked fish, (2) our ability to predict incidental impacts preseason, (3) our ability to assess these impacts postseason, and (4) effects on the quality of the CWT data base.

Groundfish

Groundfish Rebuilding Analysis Terms of Reference

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the first draft of the “Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses” that was prepared by the groundfish subcommittee and, after minor revision, approved a second draft for circulation and review by the Groundfish Management Team,

Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, and other Council entities (Exhibit D.5.e, Supplemental SSC Terms of Reference). Comment on the terms of reference will also be solicited from members of the west coast groundfish stock assessment community over the next month. Based on comments received, the SSC intends to provide a final set of guidelines at the April meeting.

With respect to the development of rebuilding analyses this year, the SSC notes that the stock assessments of darkblotched rockfish and Pacific Ocean perch that were completed in 2000 either did not include rebuilding projections or included rebuilding calculations that were not approved by the SSC (see November 2000 statement by the SSC). With the adoption of the "SSC Terms of Reference for Groundfish Rebuilding Analyses," these rebuilding calculations will need to be completed by the June Council meeting for full review by the SSC.

Canary Rockfish Incidental Catch Review

Mr. Brian Culver (Groundfish Management Team) provided a brief summary of an analysis of canary rockfish incidental catch rates. Preliminary results of an analysis of logbook information indicates high variability in canary rockfish incidental rates in shelf flatfish fisheries (e.g., arrowtooth flounder, Petrale sole). The goal is to discern changes in fishing effort in response to footrope restrictions by analyzing canary rockfish bycatch hotspots from the 1995-1998 logbooks overlayed with arrowtooth flounder and Petrale sole catches from the 1999-2000 fisheries. The hypothesis is that, in response to management measures (i.e., footrope restrictions), spatial shifts in fishing effort have occurred, which should result in lower canary rockfish bycatch. The analysis should be further refined by the April 2001 meeting.

Future Groundfish Management Process and Schedule
and
Implementation of the Groundfish Strategic Plan

Mr. Waldeck briefed the SSC on Council's efforts to revise the process used for developing groundfish annual management measures and implementation of the Strategic Plan for the groundfish fishery. These topics will be formally reviewed by the SSC, Groundfish Management Team, and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel at the April 2001 meeting.

Coastal Pelagic Species

Squid Maximum Sustainable Yield Methodology Workshop

Dr. Hill highlighted the reasons for the workshop, noting National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) disapproval of the market squid maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and optimum yield (OY) determinations, and Coastal Pelagic Management Team (CPSMT) and Council actions in regard to squid MSY. Logistics and meeting planning are proceeding. Drs. Jagielo and Conser will co-chair the workshop, which will be held at the NMFS-Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, California, May 14-16, 2001. Dr. Hill and the SSC discussed potential outside reviewers to serve on the review panel. The SSC discussed the goals and objectives of the meeting and a draft of the meeting terms of reference. The SSC will finalize their review of the workshop terms of reference and objectives at the April 2001 meeting. At the April 2001, the Council will be apprized of preparations for the workshop by the CPSMT. Following the workshop, a preliminary report will be prepared for SSC and Council review at the June 2001 Council meeting.

Public Comment

There was no formal public comment.

Adjournment

The SSC adjourned at approximately 12:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 6, 2001.

PFMC
03/16/2001