Agenda Item E.3.a Supplemental SSC Report 1 September 2024

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON QUEETS SPRING/SUMMER CHINOOK REBUILDING PLAN – RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES AND PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Alexandrea Safiq (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife), Jon Carey (NMFS West Coast Region), and members of the Salmon Technical Team (STT) briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on the draft Queets Spring/Summer Chinook rebuilding plan.

The SSC discussed the challenges of integrating age-specific fishing impacts into the non-age-structured simulation model used to calculate minimum rebuilding times (T_{MIN}), and the uncertainty due to a lack of ocean harvest estimates for this stock. Therefore, the T_{MIN} calculation is highly uncertain because we do not have a good understanding of stock productivity or potential escapement in the absence of fishing.

The SSC also discussed S_{MSY} for Queets Spring/Summer Chinook. The stock's geometric mean escapement has not been above S_{MSY} since the early 1990s, and it is unclear how S_{MSY} was originally calculated. The SSC <u>reiterates</u> its <u>previous recommendation</u> for a structured, prioritized approach to reviewing reference points for this and other salmon stocks. It may not be possible to estimate well-supported reference points for this stock in the absence of more complete data.

The SSC found that the economic impact analysis presented in Appendix C was incomplete as compared to similar analyses for other salmon stocks, and should be improved. The 2019 rebuilding plans for Queets natural coho and Strait of Juan de Fuca natural coho included socioeconomic impact analyses that evaluated potential regulatory actions similar to the alternatives evaluated in the draft Queets Spring/Summer Chinook rebuilding plan. The SSC recommends that the socioeconomic analysis in the Queets Spring/Summer Chinook rebuilding plan be modeled off the impact analysis done for those stocks.

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