

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF 2010 FISHERIES AND
SUMMARY OF 2011 STOCK ABUNDANCE FORECASTS

2010 Ocean Salmon Fisheries

Dr. Robert Kope presented the results of 2010 ocean salmon fisheries and pointed out that observed abundance, as evidenced by spawning escapement, was relatively close to the forecasts, although catch was substantially lower than predicted for all fisheries and for both Chinook and coho salmon.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) noted that non-retention mortality for Chinook greatly exceeded the forecast value for inside Puget Sound fisheries (Table I.8 in Review of 2010 Fisheries). The abundance of sublegal Chinook in these areas was much higher than expected for the last two years.

2011 Stock Abundance Forecasts

Dr. Kope also presented the stock abundance predictions for 2011. The increase reported in 2011 for Oregon coast natural area is a result of new model methodology and not a projected increase in abundance.

The SSC endorses the 2011 forecasts in Preseason Report I as the best available science for use in 2011 management.

There was one note of caution shared by the SSC and Salmon Technical Team (STT). The 2011 forecast value for the Sacramento Index (SI) is more than three times that for 2010. The STT noted that the forecasts for both 2009 and 2010 were substantially greater than observed abundances and that this is likely an upward bias in the SI forecast due to the increasing strength of successive, recent cohorts. The SSC wants to underscore the importance of this phenomenon, as this condition continues in 2011, and recommend that this likely bias be considered in the 2011 season setting process.

The SSC discussed whether the bias can be corrected using the relationship between pre- and post-season estimates for the last two years. STT members stated that such an adjustment did not increase accuracy when applied retrospectively.