

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE RATIONALE FOR  
2011 STATUS DETERMINATION

Recent information for Strait of Juan de Fuca (SJF) coho indicates that this stock has met the criterion in the FMP for rebuilt status. The  $S_{MSY}$  escapement level for SJF coho is 11,000. The criterion for rebuilt status is a three year geometric mean that exceeds  $S_{MSY}$ . Escapements for SJF coho in 2009 and 2010 were approximately 15,000 and 19,300, respectively. A preliminary escapement estimate for SJF coho in 2011 was recently provided by the co-managers. The estimated escapement in 2011 was approximately 17,200. Based on this information NMFS is considering changing the status of SJF coho to rebuilt. NMFS does not recommend that the Council develop a rebuilding plan for this stock at this meeting as it meets the rebuilt criterion in the FMP and it will likely be reclassified as rebuilt by NMFS in the near future.

There is some confusion regarding the status of Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC). In March 2010, NMFS concluded that SRFC was overfished based on failure to attain the conservation objective for three consecutive years. In March 2011, the Salmon Technical Team (STT) provided their assessment of the factors contributing to the escapement shortfall. The STT recommended that the overfished status determination be evaluated by comparing the three year geometric mean of escapement to a minimum stock size threshold (MSST) of  $0.5 * S_{MSY} = 61,000$ .  $MSST = 0.5 * S_{MSY}$  was the Council's preliminary preferred alternative for an overfished status determination in Amendment 16. The three year geometric mean for SRFC for 2007-2009 was 62,500. Based on the STT's report and the observed escapements the Council recommended that the stock's status be changed to not overfished. The Council took final action on Amendment 16 at the June 2011 meeting. Among other things, the Council recommended that MSST for SRFC be set at  $0.75 * S_{MSY} = 91,500$ . Using this criterion, SRFC would have been designated as overfished in 2010 based on 2007-2009 escapements (geomean = 62,500) and continues to be overfished base on 2009-2011 escapements (geomean = 85,195). Although there is some understandable confusion regarding the status of SRFC, they continue to be designated as overfished, and meet the "overfished" criteria in the FMP as amended by Amendment 16. Consideration of a rebuilding plan is therefore properly taken up at this time.