

**Understanding of the  
Pacific Salmon Commission  
concerning  
Mass Marking and Selective Fisheries  
February 2004 Policy Statement and Terms of Reference**

The Pacific Salmon Treaty's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) obliges the Parties to, among other things, "maintain a coded-wire-tag and recapture program designed to provide statistically reliable data for stock assessment and fishery evaluation." The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) recognizes that the selective fisheries for marked hatchery coho and chinook salmon can impact the coastwide coded-wire-tag (CWT) program. For the sole purpose of fulfilling this MOU obligation, the PSC has established the following policies and procedures. This policy does not preclude the PSC from evaluating the impacts of, and making recommendations concerning, mass marking or selective fishery plans as they affect the negotiation and establishment of Treaty annex provisions.

- It shall be the policy of the PSC to review proposals for mass marking and selective fisheries to determine consistency with the Parties' commitment to the MOU provisions regarding the reliability of data needed for management of salmon fisheries within the jurisdiction and management area of the Treaty, including whether they impose substantial cost increases for agencies to conduct required data collecting programs.
- The PSC shall establish a Selective Fishery Evaluation Committee (SFEC) to perform the activities set forth in the attached Terms of Reference.
- To facilitate the SFEC review, the Parties shall do their utmost to ensure that their domestic managers submit all proposals for mass marking (MM) and mark selective fisheries (MSF) which could potentially affect stocks or fisheries of concern to the PSC in accordance with the following schedule:
  - Not later than June 1 of each year. Provide early notice containing the agency's plans to consider conducting MSFs over the next 3-5 years.
  - Not later than June 1 of the year prior to implementation. Provide new or substantially changed MM or MSF project proposals.
  - Not later than November 1 of the year prior to implementation. Provide proposals for MM or MSF programs that are anticipated to continue annually without substantive change.
  - Upon completion of domestic fishery planning processes. agencies conducting MSFs are to provide final selective fishery plans.
  - Upon completion of MM programs. agencies are to report the number of fish that were actually mass marked and the extent to which releases are (single and double index) tagged for assessment.
  - Agencies shall report results of MSFs conducted during a season in the annual post-season report provided, using a format specified by the SFEC.

- Not later than November 30 of the year following conduct of MSFs. Agencies are to report fishery and stock-age-specific estimates of mortalities for unmarked fish impacted by MSFs to the PSC technical committees
- The PSC shall consider, by the annual February PSC meeting, the SFEC reviews of proposals for MM and MSFs and discuss potential actions to address concerns related to any MM or MSF proposals that the SFEC determines will significantly and adversely affect the CWT program.
- The Parties will do their utmost to ensure that MM and MSF proposals are developed in consultation with domestic co-management agencies or processes, and that proposing agencies or entities provide information required by the SFEC and adhere to reporting requirements to enable the PSC technical committees to complete their assignments in a timely manner.
- After the occurrence of a selective fishery and when the data are available, the PSC shall review the management agency report on the actual conduct of the fishery with respect to its impact on the CWT program, and recommend changes and improvements.

**Terms of Reference for the Selective Fishery Evaluation Committee**

Reporting and Committee Structure: The Selective Fishery Evaluation Committee (SFEC) will report to the PSC and will be comprised of a Steering Committee and two working groups: the Regional Coordination Working Group (RCWG) and the Analytical Working Group (AWG). All official members of the Steering Committee and working groups will be considered members of the SFEC.

- A. Steering Committee: The Steering Committee will be comprised of:
    1. the co-chairs of the PSC Coho Technical Committee, Chinook Technical Committee, and Data Sharing Technical Committee;
    2. the co-chairs of the two working groups;
    3. agency mass-marking/selective-fishery coordinators; and
    4. additional agency representatives approved by the responsible Party.
  - B. Regional Coordination Working Group (RCWG): The RCWG may be comprised of members of the Steering Committee and other PSC technical committees and of the agency representatives approved by the responsible Party. All RCWG members should contribute actively to the work of this group.
  - C. Selective Fishery Analysis Working Group (SFAWG): The SFAWG may be comprised of members of the Steering Committee and other PSC technical committees and of the agency representatives approved by the responsible Party. All SFAWG members should contribute actively to the work of this group.
- II. Duties of the SFEC
- A. Serve as a coastwide clearinghouse to facilitate the appropriate level of coordination and reporting on MM and MSF programs among the Parties, affected agencies, and existing coastwide and regional committees established to monitor activities related to the coastwide CWT program;

- B. Provide advice to the PSC regarding potential adverse impacts of MM and MSFs on the CWT program;
  - C. Assess and monitor the cumulative impacts of MSFs on stocks of concern to the PSC;
  - D. Provide MM or MSF project proponents with information regarding concerns for potential impacts of their projects on the CWT program.
  - E. Receive and review MM and MSF proposals from the proponent(s) as early in the planning process as possible to identify potential issues and concerns regarding impacts on the CWT program.
  - F. Establish a technical evaluation process that will:
    1. Review proposed mass-marking/selective-fisheries initiatives developed by the proponent(s) and identify potential impacts on other jurisdictions and the CWT program;
    2. Review, in consultation with relevant PSC technical committees, procedures and protocols for marking, sampling, and evaluation developed by the proponent(s) and, if appropriate, develop and recommend alternative procedures to address potential concerns or measures that could be taken to mitigate for adverse impacts on the CWT program;
    3. Establish standard formats and reporting requirements for agencies conducting MSFs to use when providing post-season information. Review post-season agency evaluations of the performance of MSFs and their estimates of mortalities on stocks of concern to the PSC;
    4. Identify information needs or request modifications of proposals to meet concerns regarding impacts on the CWT program; and
    5. Conduct, at agreed intervals, technical evaluations of mass marking and selective fishery programs in order to assist the Parties to maintain the integrity of the CWT program.
  - G. Work with PSC Technical Committees to establish formal standards and objectives for a viable CWT program to enable more precise evaluation of potential impacts of MM and MSFs on the viability of the coastwide CWT program and to guide the development of mitigation measures.
  - H. Specific duties of the Steering Committee include being responsible for overall coordination and prioritization of the activities for the working groups and being the focal point for reporting to the PSC. The agency mass-marking/selective-fishery coordinators should ensure that mass marking and selective fishery proposals are provided to the SFEC in a timely manner.
- III. Specific duties of the RCWG, among other related activities, include:
- A. Coordinate and report on continuing research on electronic detection and mass marking technologies;

- B. Collate and share information on CWT sampling procedures and programs; suggest modifications to sampling and monitoring programs to proponents;
- C. Review MM proposals to determine potential impacts on sampling and tagging programs;
- D. Provide agencies with a list of MM and MSF proposals received by the SFEC;
- E. Provide the necessary liaison with the Data Standards Working Group of the Data Sharing Technical Committee to ensure that necessary modifications are made to PSC data exchange formats to maintain the integrity of the CWT system; and
- F. Prepare an annual report summarizing mass marking statistics, index tag groups, and sampling programs for marks and CWTs.

IV. Specific duties of the SFAWG, among other related activities, include:

- A. Design marking and sampling strategies that will achieve desired precision for CWT-based estimates;
- B. Develop analytical tools for the evaluation, by the SFEC and MSF proponents, of MM programs and MSFs and their potential impacts on the coastwide CWT program;
- C. Provide the necessary technical liaison with agencies and other coastwide committees working on selective fishery evaluation models;
- D. Review and recommend parameter values for assessing impacts of MSFs;
- E. Develop analytical tools for estimating the impacts of MSFs on escapements and exploitation rates for naturally spawning coho and chinook stocks based on post-season information;
- F. Review MSF proposals and provide advice to the proponents regarding the design of MSFs and the conduct of sampling and monitoring programs; and
- G. Recommend guidelines, procedures, and/or time frames necessary to evaluate the success of MSFs in conserving naturally spawning stocks.