

TCCHINOOK-8602

November 3, 1986

THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION

CHINOOK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT TCCHINOOK (86) 2

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF 1986 FISHERIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the following preliminary information: (a) estimates of 1986 chinook salmon catches and available escapement information, (b) a brief overview of 1986 fisheries, (c) a list of potential 1987 management concerns and (d) the Committee's winter work schedule.

Needed Policy Response To This Report

A significant scheduling conflict exists between the current late February PSC schedule and the availability of important 1986 information. Some discussion of options which will allow incorporation of the latest information into the PSC process is needed. See the SCHEDULING section of this report for a more detailed discussion of this problem.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Executive Summary	2
Review of Fisheries With Harvest Ceilings	4
Review of Other Fisheries	7
Preliminary Review of Escapement	12
Preliminary Discussion of Pass Through	14
Scheduling	15
Initial Chinook Technical Committee Concerns	17
List of Attendees	19

REVIEW OF FISHERIES WITH HARVEST CEILINGS

The following table presents preliminary estimates of 1986 catch for each fishery managed under a harvest ceiling established by the Treaty. These data are very preliminary and can be expected to change as fish ticket data replace in-season projections and errors are detected and corrected, and as the final landings are included in the catch. Conclusions drawn from these data are, therefore, tentative. Please consult Table 1 for a summary of available coastwide catch statistics.

PRELIMINARY 1986 CHINOOK SALMON CATCHES IN CEILINGED FISHERIES
(Compiled with information available as of 10/22/86)

<u>AREA</u>	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>Expected Landings</u>
Alaska Base (254,000) Hatchery Add-On (9,000)	263,000	280,000
North/Central British Columbia	256,000	281,000 1/
West Coast Vancouver Island	360,000	363,000 1/
Georgia Strait	263,000	244,000

1/ Final inseason estimate. Actual counts from tickets received through 10/22 are 207,000 for North/Central Coast and 350,000 for W. Vancouver Island.

S.E. Alaska Fisheries

In 1986, management of Southeast Alaska salmon fisheries included the objective of limiting chinook salmon catches by all commercial and recreational fisheries to a base catch ceiling of 254,000 plus an add-on for new Alaska hatchery production to be determined inseason on the basis of coded wire tag recoveries. An estimated 15,700 Alaska hatchery chinook were harvested in 1986 which resulted in an add-on allowance of about 9,000 after subtracting 5,000 for old (1984) production and 1,300 for risk adjustment for potential error in estimating hatchery contributions. This yielded a total catch ceiling of 263,000. Preliminary data indicate that approximately 280,000 chinook were harvested by all gear during the 1986 season. This represents a ceiling overage of 17,000 fish or about 6.5 percent. Catches by gear were: troll - 236,000 (84%); net - 22,000 (8%); recreational - 22,000 (8%). Chinook catches by net gear were incidental to the harvest of other target species; net catches of other species totaled approximately 54 million. Twenty-three thousand chinook or about 10 percent of the troll catch occurred during the winter fishery, the remaining 213,000 (90%) were harvested during 41 days of the general summer season, beginning June 20. The number of chinook non-retention fishery days declined from 48 in 1985 to 42 in 1986.

North/Central British Columbia

The catch ceiling for the combined North B.C. fisheries (troll, net and sport) was adjusted downward to 256,000 from 263,000 to account for overages in 1985 in accord with decisions made by the PSC in March, 1986.

The troll fishery opened on June 20 to all species. At midnight August 30/31, the entire west coast of the Queen Charlottes, the western 1/2 of Dixon Entrance and various small areas inside the surf line in the central coast area were closed to all species. The remainder of the area north of Vancouver Island closed at midnight, September 5/6, to all species. The total number of days open for chinook trolling was 78 with no days of non-retention. The estimated catch for the season is 224,000 (final in-season estimate). However, the accumulated sales slips to date (October 22) only account for a catch of 207,000, so the final estimate will probably be less than the current in-season total. In addition to Chinook, the troll fishery harvested approximately 2.1 million coho and 173,000 pink, sockeye and chum during the summer season. Details of the complete management of this fishery will be available in a separate document to be submitted to the PSC.

The net catches of chinook in 1986 north of Vancouver Island occurred exclusively as incidental catches during fisheries directed at sockeye, pink and chum. Therefore, fluctuations in the chinook catch in these fisheries reflect changes in the harvest rates on these species as well as abundance changes in the chinook population. The catch totaled 45,000 pieces over 5 lbs round weight (sales slips accumulated to October 22). The catch in the Skeena, Nass, and Queen Charlottes was reduced to only 25,000. This reflects the below average sockeye returns in 1986. The central coast catch increased to 20,000 chinook because of intense late fisheries for pink and chum.

Ocean sport fisheries north of Vancouver Island are estimated by field staff. The estimate for 1986 is 12,000, which is an increase from 1985.

The combined catches for all three North/Central B.C. fisheries total 281,000 fish, using the final in-season estimates (September 18). However, the accumulated sales slips to date (October 22) total to 264,000. It is likely that this total will increase, but whether it will reach the final in-season estimate is at present unknown.

West Coast Vancouver Island Troll

The catch ceiling for this fishery remained at 360,000 in 1986. Trolling opened on June 20 for chinook, coho, and chum. It closed on midnight, August 30/31 for chinook and coho. During the period in between, several management actions were taken, which were primarily directed at species other than chinook. These will be detailed in a separate document to be submitted to the PSC. However, several local closures on the Swiftsure Bank

(off Juan de Fuca Strait) and on the Big Bank (off Barkley Sound) were implemented to slow down chinook catches or to reduce the incidence of shakers. The total number of days open to chinook trolling was 72 with no days of chinook non-retention. The estimated catch for the season is 363,000 (final in-season estimate) but the accumulated catch to date from sales slips (up to October 22) only account for a catch of 350,000. Other species of importance in this fishery include sockeye and coho. Effort directed at these species slowed down the rate of chinook catch during the peak of the season.

Georgia Strait

The combined catch ceiling for Georgia Strait (troll and sport) was reduced in 1986 to 263,000 from 275,000. This was done to account for troll shaker mortalities incurred in 1985 (2,300), to adjust for an increased size limit (2,500) and to adjust for overages incurred in 1985.

The troll fishery opened to all species on June 20. It closed to chinook retention at midnight, July 16/17. The fishery continued, primarily directed at sockeye and coho, up to September 30. A few minor areas remained opened to coho only after September 30. Details of the management of this fishery will be presented in a separate document to be submitted to the PSC. The total number of days open to chinook fishing totaled 27 days and the number of non-retention days were 76 (to September 30). The size limit for chinook in this fishery was raised from 55 to 61 cm (nose-fork length), in an attempt to slow down the catch of chinook. The catch ceiling was adjusted downward to account for additional mortalities associated with this change in size limit. The basis for this adjustment will be submitted later in a separate document. A separate assessment of the period of non-retention was made and will be reported later. The current estimate of catch in this fishery (reported through sales slips) is 46,300. This slightly exceeds the final in-season estimate.

The Georgia Strait sport fishery is currently ongoing (as it is open from January 1 to December 31), although catch rates for the November, December time of year are quite low. Catch to date (September 30) totals 170,000 and is projected to reach 190,000 by the end of the year. The primary catch assessment tool in this fishery continues to be the Georgia Strait creel survey. This year, as in 1985, the major management initiative consisted of local area closures ("spot" closures) which were very detailed as to area and times affected. A list of these closures will be submitted to the Technical Committee.

The combined total catch in the Georgia Strait hook and line fisheries are estimated to total about 236,000.

REVIEW OF OTHER FISHERIES

Available catch statistics for fisheries not managed under PSC harvest ceilings are presented in Table 1. These statistics are preliminary. We have prepared the narratives below to describe the general 1986 fishery status for the major non-ceilinged fisheries of concern to PSC chinook management. Recognizing the interest in the pass-through provisions of the Treaty we have included some very brief and preliminary comments in a separate section. These comments on pass-through are provided for general informational purposes only. The Committee will present a fuller response to requests for information on this topic later this winter.

British Columbia

Sport fisheries for chinook salmon exist in most other regions of B.C. However, none of these are assessed with the rigor of the Georgia Strait fishery. The ocean sport fishery off the west coast of Vancouver Island is confined mainly to the inside areas of Barkley Sound. The Barkley Sound fishery is assessed by a creel survey during its peak weeks in August and September. The balance of the year is estimated by field staff. These estimates are not yet available.

Chinook catches in southern net fisheries are almost exclusively incidental to target fisheries on sockeye (and on chum late in the season). Both Juan de Fuca and Johnstone Straits had relatively short fishing seasons due to the short duration of the run of the primary target stock (Adams River sockeye). The estimated catch for both areas is 15,000 chinook over 5 lbs round weight. The Fraser River gillnet fishery for sockeye also harvests chinook incidentally to the target species. Catches in this fishery are still incomplete (about 26,000 estimated to date), but appear to be less than 1985.

The Barkley Sound gillnet fishery directed at Robertson Creek chinook had a single 12 hour "test" fishery in late August. The estimated stock abundance was so poor that no further fisheries were scheduled. Total catch for this fishery including incidental catches during sockeye fishing in June and early July was 2300 pieces above 5 lbs round weight.

Gillnet catches in the Canadian sections of the Transboundary Rivers are reported as follows:

- 1) Taku River - 275 adult chinook and 77 jacks.
- 2) Stikine River - 910 adult chinook and 406 jacks.

Incidental and/or unreported chinook catches were assessed by a pilot study in the Johnstone Strait sockeye fishery. Preliminary results indicate that the rate of incidental encounters of sub-legal chinook in the 1986 Johnstone Strait seine fishery were less than that for legal sized fish. A report summarizing the findings of this study will be submitted to the Technical Committee in early December.

Freshwater sport fisheries exist in many of the major rivers in B.C. These include the Skeena, the Nass, the Kitimat, the Bella Coola, the Somass, the Fraser and various streams on the east coast of Vancouver Island. In general, these fisheries are not rigorously assessed and some do not even have a catch estimate generated by field staff. Freshwater sport catch data is presently not available for most rivers.

In 1986, experimental freshwater sport fisheries were begun in the Fraser River to provide limited opportunities for inland fisheries. Fisheries were started in the following systems:

1) Bowron River: A 2-day/week fishery operated from July 15 to August 15 for a total of 10 days of fishing. A catch ceiling of 300 fish was established and it appears that the catch is well below this ceiling.

2) Quesnel River: A 2-day/week fishery operated from August 1 to 29 for a total of 9 days of fishing. A catch ceiling of 200 fish was established and again the catch appears to be well below the ceiling.

3) Clearwater River: A 2-day/week fishery operated from July 15 to August 15 with a catch ceiling of 300 fish. The total days fishing were 10. It appears that the open dates were established before the run appeared in strength because the estimated catch is only 2 fish.

4) Shuswap River: Two 2-days/week fishing periods were established in this river, the first covering July 29 to August 8 (5 days fishing) and the second spanning September 9 to 23 (also 5 days fishing). The ceiling for the first period was established at 50 fish and for the second period at 450 fish. Preliminary assessments of the catch data indicate that the ceilings have been met or exceeded in both periods.

5) lower Fraser bar fishery: The lower Fraser bar fishery is a mixed stock fishery which has been under restriction since 1980 (catch of chinook larger than 50 cm is prohibited). An experimental fishery lasting from September 5 to November 30 which allows the retention of adult chinook is presently taking place (this is a repeat of 1985). The catch estimate for September, 1986 is 600 adults. The catches to date from the beginning of the season are 6800 jacks and 700 adults (allowing for known poaching prior to September 5).

British Columbia Native Food Fisheries

Transboundary Rivers:

The native food fish catch in the Alsek River has taken approximately 100 chinook to date. 600 jacks and 1,000 adults have been taken by native food fisherman in the Stikine River. No data is presently available for the Taku River.

Nass and Skeena Rivers:
To be submitted.

Somass River:

The native fishery on the Somass River has harvested about 11,000 chinook in 1986. This is similar to the catch in 1985. However, the fishery extended over a longer period of time in 1986 than in 1985.

Fraser River:

The native fishery on the Fraser has harvested about 15,000 chinook to date in 1986. This harvest is higher than in 1985 but represents a drop from the recent 81-85 average catch (about 20,000 pieces).

Puget Sound

Sport and commercial net fisheries in Puget Sound continued to be restricted to protect depressed spring chinook stocks. With several exceptions, Puget Sound summer/fall type chinook are generally healthy and support terminal fisheries. Commercial net catch declined slightly in 1986 from 229,000 in 1985 to 204,000 in 1986. Sport catch data for 1986 are not available at this time. These fisheries have been managed in the same general manner for the last several years.

Washington Coast

The northern Washington coastal stocks from the Quillayute, Hoh and Queets Rivers are managed on the basis of escapement floors and terminal exploitation rates. With the exception of the Quillayute spring/summer run, these coastal stocks are not of immediate conservation concern. No directed fisheries were conducted on Quillayute spring stocks. Fisheries impacting the Quillayute summer stock were primarily limited to incidental harvests taken during fisheries directed at summer steelhead and summer coho. No directed commercial fisheries were conducted on fall chinook stocks from Grays Harbor. Grays Harbor spring chinook remain a problem; the only terminal harvest of this stock was a small quantity taken by river sport fisheries and by Indian net fisheries on the Chehalis Reservation.

Columbia River

1986 Columbia River net fisheries harvested approximately 276,000 chinook, as compared to 146,000 in 1985. The sport fishery harvested 41,000 as compared to 36,000 in 1985. A lower river winter gillnet fishery, targeting on surplus lower river spring stocks, harvested 9,300 chinook. There were no directed commercial fisheries on upper Columbia River spring or summer running chinook stocks in 1986. There were tribal ceremonial and subsistence fisheries on these runs which harvested about 7,500 upriver spring chinook. Commercial chinook salmon fisheries were directed primarily at lower river fall run stocks and Upriver Bright Stocks. Fall commercial seasons were structured to maximize harvest of surplus upriver brights and lower river tule (hatchery) stocks while providing protection for very the depressed Spring Creek Hatchery stock. Preliminary estimates

indicate a 1986 catch of approximately 6,000 Spring Creek hatchery origin fish during the fall commercial seasons. Columbia River sport fisheries are projected to catch 40,000 to 55,000 chinook in 1986 (25,000 spring chinook and 15,000 to 30,000 fall chinook). The spring chinook fishery was targeted on surplus lower river hatchery stocks, while the fall chinook sport fisheries primarily harvested surplus upriver brights and lower river tule stocks. The focus of in-river management for fall chinook stocks was the need to protect Tule hatchery stocks, particularly the run returning to the Spring Creek Hatchery.

Ocean Fisheries North of Cape Falcon

Ocean chinook fisheries off the Washington coast and the Oregon coast, north of Cape Falcon, are managed primarily for Columbia River chinook stocks. Far northerly migrating chinook stocks are taken incidentally to harvests directed at Columbia River Tule stocks. In 1986, ocean troll and recreational fisheries in this area were managed under established quotas in response to concerns for continuing depressed Columbia River fall tule chinooks destined for Spring Creek Hatchery. Four ocean quota fisheries were established north of Cape Falcon for the 1986 season. The total ocean troll harvest was 51,600 chinook, 3 percent lower than the 1985 harvest. Washington landings were 49,700 chinook while Oregon landings North of Cape Falcon were 6,400 chinook. Ocean recreational fisheries north of Cape Falcon landed 22,900 chinook, 28 percent below the 1985 harvest. These fisheries were also limited by quotas similar to the troll quotas in that area. Washington and North of Falcon Oregon recreational landings were 21,000 and 1,900, respectively.

Ocean Fisheries From Cape Falcon To Cape Blanco

Ocean fisheries between Cape Falcon and Cape Blanco (i.e., Central Coast) are managed primarily for Oregon coastal (north migrating fall and spring) stocks originating in the area. Small terminal river mouth ocean fisheries and inriver recreational fisheries target on these stocks as mature fish return (see Table 1), the general season for ocean troll and recreational fisheries for this area are estimated by ODFW to be composed of less than 10 percent of these north migrating stocks.

TABLE 1. PRELIMINARY 1986 CHINOOK CATCHES FROM STOCKS CONTRIBUTING TO U.S./CANADA SALMON TREATY AREAS, COMPARED WITH 1983, 1984 AND 1985 CATCHES. (numbers of fish in 1,000's)
 PRELIMINARY
 03-Nov-86

AREA	TROLL				NET				SPORT				TOTAL					
	1986	1985	1984	1983	1986	1985	1984	1983	1986	1985	1984	1983	1986	1985	1984	1983		
S.E. ALASKA	a/	236	217	236	271	22	36	32	20	22	25	22	22	280	278	290	313	
BRITISH COLUMBIA						b/				c/								
North/Cent. Coast	f/	224	215	254	254	45	52	36	30	12	9	20	20	281	276	310	304	
W. Vanc. Island	f/	363	358	460	385	2	11	44	38	d/	NA	18	44	365	387	548	423	
Georgia Strait		46	52	88	105	27	30	20	18	e/	190	235	369	263	317	477	321	
Johnstone Strait		4	5	9	15	15	38	18	28		NA	10	10	19	53	37	53	
Juan de Fuca Strait		0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	15	17	6	0.3	e/				15	17	6	1	
sub-total		637	630	811	759	104	148	124	114	202	272	443	228	943	1050	1378	1102	
WASHINGTON										g/								
Puget Sound		26	11	15	18	204	229	226	182	0	149	177	197	230	389	418	397	
Coast		49	51	27	74	22	14	16	14	22	31	16	50	93	96	59	138	
sub-total		75	62	42	92	226	243	242	196	22	180	193	247	323	485	477	535	
COLUMBIA RIVER		-	-	-	- /h	276	146	128	58	i/	41	36	46	39	317	182	174	97
OREGON																		
North Coast		6	4	9	6	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	3	8	8	9	9	
Central Coast	j/	2	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	35	30	29	20	37	33	32	23	
sub-total		8	7	12	9	0	0	0	0	37	34	29	23	45	41	41	32	
GRAND TOTAL		956	916	1101	1131	628	573	526	388	324	547	733	559	1908	2036	2360	2079	

- a/ Southeast Alaska troll chinook catches shown for Oct. 1- Sept. 30 catch counting year.
 b/ British Columbia net catches includes only fish over 5 lb. round weight. Native food fishery catches are not included.
 c/ Sport catches are for tidal waters only, catch updates will be provided as available.
 d/ Estimates of tidal sport catches from Barkley Sound only.
 e/ Georgia Strait sport catches include Juan de Fuca Strait sport catches. 1986 estimate includes projected catch through remainder of year.
 f/ Catches for 1986 are final inseason estimates. Actual count from tickets received through 10/22 are 207,000 for North/Central Coast and 350,000 for W. Vancouver Island.
 g/ Sport catches include both marine and freshwater catches, but only adults in freshwater.
 h/ Columbia River net catches include Oregon, Washington and treaty catches, but not treaty ceremonial.
 i/ Columbia River sport catches are for adults only and include only Washington and Oregon anglers.
 j/ Includes only terminal ocean troll and estuary inriver sport catches from Cape Falcon to Cape Blanco.

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF ESCAPEMENT

Some fall running chinook stocks are still spawning at this time. Consequently, only a brief preliminary escapement overview can be presented. We have prepared the following brief narratives to summarize the information which is currently available. This information should be considered preliminary and subject to change.

S.E. Alaska

Estimated total chinook escapement to Southeast Alaska and transboundary systems totaled 46,000 in 1986 representing a 24 percent increase over the 1985 escapement of 37,000. Escapement increased in 9 index systems and decreased in 2 - the Stikine and Chilkat rivers. The first cycle of the 15-year natural stock rebuilding program begun in 1981 has been completed. An assessment of rebuilding progress is currently being conducted.

British Columbia

Escapement to Northern British Columbia populations improved, on average, again in 1986. Escapement to spring and summer run-timing stocks in the Fraser River also improved. Escapement estimates to fall run-timing stocks in Southern B.C. are not available at this time, however, three qualitative observations are notable:

- 1) escapement to the Somass River and Robertson Creek hatchery is likely below 1984 and 1985 levels, as expected, but escapement to the hatchery will be sufficient for their egg requirements and the return of jack chinook has improved significantly;
- 2) escapement to East coast Vancouver Island stocks is uncertain yet, but the fall drought and warm water temperatures may significantly limit spawning success of the escaping spawners;
- 3) the Fraser River test fishing index during the period of upstream migration of Harrison River chinook indicates that reduced escapements to this system are likely.

Puget Sound

Spawning escapement data are not yet available.

Washington Coast

Spawning escapement data are not yet available.

Columbia River

Columbia River chinook stocks continued to show a mixed response to rebuilding efforts. Escapement needs for lower river spring chinook stocks (Willamette and Cowlitz) were met. The Bonneville Dam count of 118,200 upriver spring chinook adults continued the upward trend from 83,100 adults in 1985 and approached the Bonneville Dam goal of 120,000. The 120,000 goal at Bonneville is currently under review. It is expected that the goal will be partitioned into hatchery and naturally spawning components that will better reflect the intent to rebuild the natural stock. The proportion of hatchery fish in this run has changed substantially

since the goal was established. Preliminary analysis of recent year returns indicates a reversing of the composition from 70% wild to 70% hatchery. Therefore, the natural component of the run is still very depressed.

The 1986 return of 26,300 adult summer chinook over Bonneville Dam was a 6% increase from the 1985 return of 24,800 and was the largest since 1980. While improving slightly this stock still remains seriously depressed compared to its 85,000 escapement goal.

The upriver bright fall chinook adult count at McNary Dam was greater than 100,000 and fish are still passing the dam. This compares to the escapement goal of 40,000 adults. Sport fisheries and a limited tribal commercial gillnet fishery are currently harvesting some of this surplus, with the tribal fishery expected to harvest around 1,000 and the sport harvest expected to be around 2,000.

The 1986 return to Spring Creek Hatchery, including Tules trapped at Bonneville Dam as supplemental broodstock, totaled only 3,300 adults compared to 5,400 in 1985 and the escapement goal of 8,200 adults. However, the total 1986 Spring Creek egg take was about 12.5 million eggs, near last year's egg take of about 13.5 million. This was possible due to: (1) a higher than anticipated proportion of the 1986 run were females (nearly 80% versus 60% of the typical run); (2) a higher fecundity due to a larger than normal percentage of four year olds in the return and (3) a transfer of 1.4 million Spring Creek type Tule eggs from Little White Salmon Hatchery.

Bonneville and Big Creek (Oregon side) escapements were about 20% below their goals. Surpluses at Washington hatchery facilities, however, were sufficient to make-up these shortfalls.

Oregon Coast

Oregon coastal north migrating chinook stocks are mostly natural spawning fall chinook with minor spring and hatchery production contributions. A full assessment of the 1986 escapement is not yet available. Early information from terminal ocean commercial and inriver recreational fisheries indicate returns will likely be above average with spawning escapements similar to 1984 and 1985 levels.

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF PASS-THROUGH

The subject of Pass-Through has been discussed only briefly by the Chinook Technical Committee. It is essential for any analysis of pass-through, that both catch and escapement data be available for all fisheries and stocks of interest. It is our intent to pursue a broader analysis of this issue over the winter. We also recognize the interest in this issue by the Panels and therefore have incorporated the following preliminary comments in this report.

British Columbia

The assessment of pass through provisions in non-ceilinged fisheries will be addressed in detail in agency reports and in the Chinook Technical Committee analysis this winter.

Puget Sound

Management measures to protect spring chinook and weak naturally spawning fall chinook stocks have reduced directed harvest of these stocks below what they were prior to the base period used in the negotiation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Washington and Oregon Ocean Fisheries

Harvest rates in recent years by Ocean fisheries North of Cape Blanco, Oregon are lower than those associated with the base period used in the negotiation of Pacific Salmon Commission Treaty fishing regimes.

Columbia River

Absence of directed commercial chinook fisheries for upriver spring and summer run stocks is expected to have been adequate to meet pass through obligations for these stocks. Fall commercial seasons were structured to maximize harvest of surplus upriver brights and lower river Tules (hatchery) stocks while providing protection for the very depressed Spring Creek hatchery stock. The impact of fall fisheries on the pass-through of Spring Creek stock will be assessed.

SCHEDULING

The Committee identified the need for three phases to its winter work. First is a need to provide reports on special topics of PSC interest. Second is an update of post-season catch and preliminary escapement estimates. And third is a report that includes 1987 expectations and management recommendations of the Committee. To complete these three work efforts the Chinook Technical Committee has planned the following, tentative schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Work Activity</u>
December 15-17, 1986	Committee meeting to finalize reports on (a) induced mortality, (b) rebuilding and overages, and (c) develop an approach to evaluate pass through.
Week of February 2	Electronic mail exchange to (a) update 1986 ocean and inside fishery data and (b) to present preliminary 1986 escapement data.
Late February	Committee meeting to (a) update previously presented material, (b) provide stock status information, (c) assess rebuilding and (d) make management recommendations.

A significant, and presently unresolvable scheduling conflict exists between the data flow from agencies to the Committee and the current PSC schedule calling for final decision meetings starting on February 25. The timing of the February PSC meetings requires the production of preliminary information that can change substantially from week to week. This circumstance not only holds the potential for confusion and decision making based upon erroneous data, but also imposes extreme demands which severely stress agency reporting and committee analytical capacity. The Pacific Council (PFMC) Salmon Plan Development Team is scheduled to compile southern U.S. 1986 escapement and pre-season 1987 expectations information the week of February 16-20, 1987. The PFMC Salmon Team schedule has evolved over the last ten years and represents the earliest time that individual agencies in the south are capable of producing these data given the timing of fisheries and spawning for some stocks. In addition, the mid-February time period is the point at which information from coded wire tag experiments and escapements are just becoming available for analysis. These data are critical to the assessment of chinook management measures. The unavailability of these data until February 20 does not allow sufficient time for the Chinook Technical Committee to receive and analyze these data for the presently scheduled PSC meetings beginning February 25. In the future, this problem should be

solved by scheduling PSC meetings after the second week of March, when a full analysis of data will be available.

Compounding these scheduling difficulties are burdens associated with annual compilation of routine fishery performance information. Fishery performance information for one species cannot be interpreted in isolation from the information available for all species. Currently, the Technical teams are often requested to redundantly compile information for individual species reports. Coordinated compilation, by the PSC, of the Treaty required reports on all fishing activities would alleviate this redundancy, provide fishery performance information in one reference document and increase the amount of time Joint Technical Teams could devote to substantive management issues. The Committee requests that some mechanism be developed outside the Technical Committees to compile these reports including information on pre-season fishing plans, in-season allocation adjustments, and catch and effort statistics by time, gear and area.

INITIAL CHINOOK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CONCERNS

The Committee has discussed, but not fully defined, issues which may need attention in 1987. The following is a list of these issues.

a. Induced Mortality

Continuing and/or increasing chinook non-retention fisheries were observed again in 1986 and some new size limit increases were implemented in 1986. Another area requiring documentation and assessment concerns non-catch mortality of sublegal chinook during troll fisheries directed at pink, chum and sockeye salmon. There is a Treaty commitment to assess and account for non-catch mortality. The manner in which these issues are addressed from a policy perspective will affect the analytical approach for evaluation of the rebuilding schedule.

b. Differential Stock Impacts of Management Regimes

There appears to have been a continuation of differential management impacts between some spring running and other chinook stocks.

c. Ceiling Overages

Catch ceilings are generally regarded as quotas and there is a tendency to manage fisheries so that the harvest ceilings are fully taken or exceeded. Ceiling overages were noted in Alaska and North Central British Columbia fisheries and possibly for the West coast of Vancouver Island fisheries. Ceiling overages have resulted in some concerns about the potential effect on stock rebuilding. Policy determinations will be required as to how harvest ceiling overages are to be handled.

d. Catch Reporting Systems

Implementation of ceiling management imparts national obligations to monitor and regulate fisheries based upon inseason data. Deficiencies in reporting and analytical procedures for inseason management can reduce the effectiveness of management measures established to implement the chinook conservation program.

e. Stocks Which Continue at Reduced Abundance Relative to the Base Period

Production from Spring Creek (Columbia River Tule), Georgia Strait, and Robertson Creek stocks is expected to continue to be depressed. Additional management measures will be necessary to bring Georgia Strait stocks back on the rebuilding schedule by 1987. The level of reductions in harvest rate and catches, and/or the application of enhancement techniques which would assist rebuilding, will be determined upon completion of analysis of data from the 1986 season (available in February). There are a variety of measures involving reductions in fisheries impacting these stocks which must be taken to return this stock to its rebuilding schedule.

f. Evaluation of the rebuilding program.

A framework for the assessment of the rebuilding program is under development by the Committee. A discussion paper is scheduled to be prepared in December for consideration by the Commission.

g. Availability of CWT data from Washington

The lack of data from recent CWT recoveries in Washington is severely limiting the analysis of harvest rate indicator stocks and pass through provisions of the Treaty. Final 1984 recoveries will be available in December, but 1985 and 1986 recoveries are not projected to be complete in time for the February analysis of harvest rates and allowable ceilings.

ATTENDANCE LIST
OCTOBER 22-23, 1986 MEETING OF
CHINOOK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Don Bevan
College of Ocean and Fisheries Sciences
HA-40
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195
206-543-4276

Tom Cooney
Washington Department of Fisheries
Rm 115 General Administration Building
Olympia, WA 98504
206-753-9142

Peter Dygert
Point No Point Treaty Council
7850 NE Little Boston Road
Kingston, WA 98346
206-297-3422

Mike Fraidenburg, Co-Chairman
Washington Department of Fisheries
Rm 115 General Administration Building
Olympia, WA 98504

Gary Freitag
SSRAA
1649 Tongass Avenue
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-225-9605

Ken Henry
NMFS - Building 4
7600 Sandpoint Way NE
Seattle, WA 98155
206-526-4234

Steve Ignell
NMFS, Auke Bay Lab
Box 210155
Auke Bay, AK 99821
907-789-7231

Rod Kaiser
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Science Drive Building 3
Newport, OR 97365
503-867-4741

Scott Marshall
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 20
Douglas, AK 99824

Gary Morishima
3010 77th SE, Suite 104
Mercer Island, WA 98040
206-236-1406

Dave Peacock
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
North Coast Division
202-417 2nd Avenue West
Prince Rupert, BC V8J-1G8
604-627-8730

Dexter Pitman
Idaho Fish and Game
600 S. Walnut
Box 25
Boise, ID 83707
208-334-3791

Ken. Pitre
Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans
1090 W. Pender
Vancouver, BC V6E-2P1
604-666-3512

Kurt Reidinger
Washington Department of Fisheries
Rm 115 General Administration Building
Olympia, WA 98504
206-753-6190

Brian Riddell, Co-Chairman
Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Pacific Biological Station
Nanaimo, BC V9R-5K6
604-756-7145

Tim Roth
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9317 NE Highway 99, Suite I
Vancouver, WA 98665
206-696-7605

Howard Schaller
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
975 SE Sandy Blvd., Suite 202
Portland, OR 97214
503-238-0667

Neil Schubert
Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans
80 6th Street
New Westminster, BC
604-666-8452

Jim Scott
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
6730 Martin Way East
Olympia, WA 98506
206-438-1180

Mel Seibel
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 20
Douglas, AK 99824
907-465-4250

Tom Shardlow
Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans
South Coast Division
Field Operations Branch
3225 Stephenson Pt. Rd.
Nanaimo, BC V9R-5N7
604-756-7293

Paul Starr
Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans
1090 W. Pender Street
Vancouver, BC V6E-2P1
604-666-6648

Terry Wright
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
6730 Martin Way East
Olympia, WA 98506
206-438-1180