



TO: PSC Commissioners

CC: John Field, PSC Executive Secretary

FROM: John Carlile, Robert Kope and Gayle Brown (CTC co-chairs)

DATE: February 16, 2017

SUBJECT: CTC response to the assignment to provide strategic advice regarding 2018 high priority Chinook project priorities

The CTC was tasked by the PSC Commissioners at the January 2017 Post-Season Meeting to complete the following task:

The CTC will provide advice to the Commission at the conclusion of their May 2017 meeting consistent with the level of detail provided in their April 2016 memo. The CTC's advice will cover very high priority chinook issues to help inform the development of requests for proposals for 2018 projects (i.e., as occurred April 2016).

The Commission chairs will consider the CTC advice and provide the Commission's views to the JFC in advance of 2017 RFPs.

Subsequently, the CTC was asked to provide such advice by the end of the February annual meeting in 2017.

In response to this assignment, the CTC reached agreement on a list of priority activities to support the 2018 implementation of Annex IV, Chapter 3. The CTC recommends use of the following project themes, in no particular priority order, to guide development of requests for proposals for high priority Chinook projects by the Endowment Fund committees:

- A. Sampling in fisheries and escapements, lab processing, and data reporting to support the recovery of adequate numbers of coded-wire tags to support estimation of precise statistics produced by the cohort analysis procedure.

- B. Coded-wire tagging of CTC exploitation rate indicator stocks (single index and double index tagging) designed to improve the quality and quantity of CWT data identified in PSC CWT guidelines.
- C. Continued or improved estimates of catch, terminal returns, forecasts and escapements to meet CTC data standards.
- D. Development of additional escapement goals and stock-specific exploitation rate management objectives needed to implement the Chinook management regime.
- E. PSC Coast Wide Chinook model and Exploitation Rate Analysis improvements.
- F. Improvement of methods for stock and fishery assessments (e.g., estimation of spatial/temporal stock-age distribution, projection of maturation rates for incomplete broods, systematic evaluation of current analytical methods using the Data Generation Model)

These recommendations are largely consistent with the advice the CTC provided in our April 2016 memo, with the addition of improved forecasts.