

**Revised process to provide PSC Guidance on Very High Priority Chinook Projects for 2017
and 2018**

Introduction:

The following revised process is proposed to replace the Commission's process adopted February 11, 2016, titled "Process to Provide PSC Guidance on Very High Priority Chinook Projects for 2017 and 2018."

Revised process for providing advice to the Northern and Southern Fund Committees on Very High Chinook Projects in 2016, 2017 and 2018:

April 2016:

Task 1: The CTC will provide advice to the Commission at the conclusion of their April 2016 meeting. The CTC's advice will cover very high priority chinook issues to help inform the development of requests for proposals for 2017 projects at the level of detail consistent with the April 18, 2016 memo (Attch 1).

Task 2: The Commission chairs will consider the CTC advice and provide the Commission's views to the JFC in advance of 2016 RFPs (Attch 2).

January 2017, at Post-Season Meeting: Commission requests the results of the JFC technical review of 2017 proposals be provided to the Commission for its review and consideration of the funding recommendations list, including VHPC recommendations (technical review scheduled to occur January 8, 2017).

February 2017, at Annual Meeting:

Task 1: The Parties to the Commission discuss with their CTC representatives the JFC's ranked list of projects, and specifically consider whether any of the VHPC project recommendations may impact the Parties' ability to meet their Treaty obligations (i.e., where the recommendation is not to fund, the project is unlikely to be funded elsewhere, and without the project the Parties fail to meet a Treaty obligation).

Task 2: The Commission Chairs decide if any communication to the JFC is necessary, for example, to highlight any impact on the Commission's ability to meet its Treaty obligations.

Task 3: As necessary, the Commission Chairs provide the Commission's views on the JFC's funding recommendations and list of projects regarding requests and justifications for adjustments to recommendations of specific VHPC projects for the 2017 calendar year. The Commission's views would be transmitted to the JFC before the end of the Annual Meeting.

February 2017, following Annual Meeting: The JFC considers the Commission's views, as

available, and its funding recommendations for projects, and decides which projects to fund in 2017.

May 2017:

Task 1: 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).

Task 2: The Commission chairs will consider the CTC advice and provide the Commission's views to the JFC in advance of 2017 RFPs.

January 2018, at Post Season Meeting: Commission requests the results of the JFC technical review of 2018 proposals be provided to the Commission for its review and consideration of the funding recommendations list, including VHPC recommendations.

February 2018, at Annual Meeting:

Task 1: The Parties to the Commission discuss with their CTC representatives the JFC's funding recommendations and list of projects, and specifically consider whether any of the VHPC project recommendations may impact the Parties' ability to meet their Treaty obligations (i.e., where the recommendation is not to fund, the project is unlikely to be funded elsewhere, and without the project the Parties fail to meet a Treaty obligation).

Task 2: The Commission Chairs decides if any communication to the JFC is necessary, for example, to highlight any impact on the Commission's ability to meet its Treaty obligations.

Task 3: As necessary, the Commission Chairs provide the Commission's views on the JFC's funding recommendations for projects regarding requests and justifications for adjustments to recommendations of specific VHPC projects for the 2018 calendar year. The Commission's views would be transmitted to the JFC by the end of the Annual Meeting.

February 2018, following Annual Meeting:

The JFC considers the Commission's views, as available, and its funding recommendations for projects, and decides which projects to fund in 2018.

Implementation:

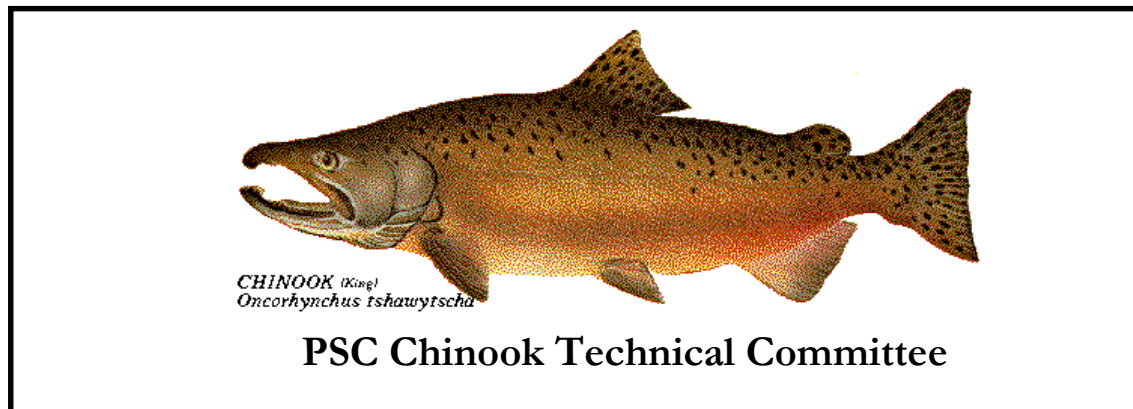
If the Commission agrees on a revised process as proposed, the PSC Secretariat will apprise the appropriate groups of the process adopted by the Commission to address very high priority chinook projects. Per this plan, the PSC Secretariat will request and relay the results of the JFC's technical review to the Commission, as available. The changes proposed from the process previously adopted are summarized below.

- Limiting the role of the CTC to advising the Commission on VHPC issues regarding

development of RFPs consistent with the thematic advice provided in April 2016 and advising on the JFC's technical review.

- Identifying a lead role for Commission Chairs regarding the need for and development of communications to the JFC.
- Requesting Commission review of the JFC's funding recommendations resulting from their technical review.
- Changing the timing of the Commission's communication to the JFC from January 31st to the end of the Annual Meeting.

Attachment 1. CTC Advice to Commission, April 2016



TO: PSC Commissioners

CC: John Field, PSC Executive Secretary

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

DATE: April 18, 2016

SUBJECT: CTC response to the assignment to provide strategic advice regarding 2017 high priority Chinook project priorities

The CTC was tasked by the PSC Commissioners on Feb. 11th to complete the following task by April 15, 2016:

On an interim basis for 2016, the CTC will provide strategic advice to the Commission in its April 2016 meeting on very high priority chinook issues to help inform the development of requests for proposals for 2017 projects.

The Commission chairs will consider the CTC advice and provide its views to the JFC in advance of 2016 RFPs.

John Field conveyed his interpretation of this direction in emails to the CTC on Feb 19 and April 12. The specific wording provided to the CTC in his most recent email (but consistent with the first), was:

1. Summarize categories of research, fishery monitoring, or other data needs that are priorities for 2017 implementation of Annex IV, Chapter 3.
2. Where possible, provide specific research projects or funding needs in those categories. Where it's not possible to identify specific projects or funding needs, the category itself will be sufficient strategic advice.

There is disagreement within the CTC as to whether item 2 in the direction from John Field

accurately reflects the task description as discussed bilaterally among the PSC Commissioners. Furthermore, some CTC members question whether this is a desirable way to proceed. The following response from the CTC reflects these differing viewpoints.

In response to this assignment, the CTC reached agreement on a list of priority activities to support the 2017 implementation of Annex IV, Chapter 3. The CTC recommends use of the following project themes to guide development of requests for proposals for high priority Chinook projects by the Endowment Fund committees:

- 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
- Coded Wire Tagging of CTC exploitation rate indicator stocks (single index tagging and double index tagging) designed to improve the quality and quantity of CWT data identified in PSC CWT guidelines.
- Continued or improved estimates of catch, terminal returns, and escapements to meet CTC data standards.
- Development of additional escapement goals and stock-specific exploitation rate management objectives needed to implement the Chinook management regime
- PSC Coast Wide Chinook model and Exploitation Rate Analysis improvements
- 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)

Existing fiscal constraints and funding pressures threaten to impact Canada's ability to implement Chapter 3, thus Canadian CTC members worked to prepare a list of Canadian high priority projects to provide to the PSC Commissioners for their consideration. However, these projects have not yet been discussed by the bilateral CTC. The list consists of 1) VHPCPs that received PSC Endowment funding in 2014 and 2015, 2) projects that had received former CWTIT or SSP funding, and 3) additional core escapement and CWT indicator programs considered to be at high risk of funding loss in 2017. This list of projects and associated costs is available for consideration.

The US CTC members have not yet assembled a list of high priority projects for discussion by the bilateral CTC. The reasons include incomplete knowledge at this time of the year regarding funding gaps expected in 2017. In addition, the US has not yet had the opportunity to make decisions regarding the distribution of continuing CWTIT funds (\$1.5M) and US Abundance Based Management (LOA) funds for US projects in 2017.

Without a list that includes both Canadian and US projects, it has not been possible for the CTC to discuss and recommend any specific projects with bilateral endorsement at this time.

Agenda Item 7. CIG report
Revised VHPC process
CIG proposal
January 10, 2017

The timing of the need for strategic advice on 2017 high priority Chinook projects to support the meeting schedule and decision process of the PSC Joint Fund Committee occurs prior to when there is complete understanding of all 2017 agency budgets. Consideration of a process to identify high priority projects for 2017 at a later time this year could provide a solution to this dilemma.

Attachment 2. Commission Advice to JFC, April 2016

(Was on PSC letter head, below is the text of the memo)

Memorandum

From: Phil Anderson and Susan Farlinger, PSC Chair and Vice-Chair

To: Joint Fund Committee

Date: April 22, 2016

Subject: VHPC recommendations for 2017

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) advice to the Joint Fund Committee (JFC) on Very High Priority Chinook (VHPC) projects, for 2017.

In February 2016, the PSC adopted the Chinook Interface Group's proposed process to provide strategic advice to the Joint Fund Committee on VHPC for 2016, 2017 and 2018. (Attachment#1). As part of this process, the PSC requested the Chinook Technical Committee (CTC) provide it with strategic advice to help inform the development of the JFC requests for proposals for 2017 projects.

The PSC recommends that the JFC consider using the following project themes to guide the development of its requests for proposals for Very High Priority Chinook projects as priorities for 2017 implementation of Annex IV, Chapter 3.

Recommended Project Themes for VHPC Projects in 2017:

- 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
- Coded Wire Tagging of CTC exploitation rate indicator stocks (single index tagging and double index tagging) designed to improve the quality and quantity of CWT data identified in PSC CWT guidelines.
- Continued or improved estimates of catch, terminal returns, and escapements to meet CTC data standards.
- Development of additional escapement goals and stock-specific exploitation rate management objectives needed to implement the Chinook management regime
- PSC Coast Wide Chinook model and Exploitation Rate Analysis improvements
- 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).

The CTC has not yet bilaterally vetted a specific list of projects. However please note that funding needs to implement Annex IV, Chapter 3 from Canada's perspective include the list of VHPC projects that received PSC endowment funding in 2014 and 2015, projects that had received former Coded-Wire Tag Improvement Team or Sentinel Stocks Program funding, and additional core escapement and CWT indicator programs considered at risk of funding shortfall in 2017 (Attachment #2). As the U.S. gains more information regarding its 2017 funding and any shortfall thereof to implement Annex IV, Chapter 3, the U.S. will be in a position to identify more specific funding needs from the U.S. perspective.

The PSC will receive a CTC vetted and prioritized list of project proposals in December 2016. The PSC will then provide the JFC with its bilateral priorities of specific VHPC projects and costs by January 31, 2017, in advance of the JFC funding decisions for 2017.

Thank you for considering the PSC's advice on the VHPC projects in your deliberations. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns about the memorandum or its attachments.

Attachments:

1. Process to provide PSC Guidance on Very High Priority Chinook Projects
2. Canadian list of projects

Cc:

U.S. Commissioners and Alternates,

Canadian Commissioners and Alternates, Angus Mackay,

John Field, Alison Agness,

Kirsten Ruecker