

Appendix to Annex IV, Chapter 3

Understanding on the Application of Annex IV, Chapter 3 relating to assignments for the Chinook Technical Committee

(1) Incidental mortality

Improved estimates of incidental fishing mortality are to be developed based upon direct fishery observations. The CTC will collate and document existing information on the coastwide encounter rates for all sources of incidental mortality on chinook coastwide. The CTC will report on the extent of incidental mortality and on deficiencies in the information coverage and will recommend a work plan to address data deficiencies, including observer programs or other direct sampling procedures, that will enable implementation of a total fishing mortality regime for fisheries in 2002. The Parties will implement the work plan in a timely and comprehensive manner to ensure adoption of a total fishing mortality regime in 2002.

The CTC will also evaluate the capacity to predict incidental mortalities, testing assumptions used in determining predictions and identifying options to improve pre-season predictions and estimates of total mortality in AABM and ISBM fisheries.

(2) Overage/Underage provisions

The CTC will adapt the previous overage/underage annex provisions to reflect changes based on:

- a) catch established through in-season or pre-season abundance indicators;
- b) adjustments for positive deviations from the total mortality index; and
- c) deviations from target reductions in ISBM fisheries. The CTC in carrying out this assignment will be guided by paragraph 7 of this Chapter.

The CTC will review a 7.5 percent management range above and below the management objective and consider whether increased flexibility in the management range is desirable or necessary, taking into consideration management precision, increased risk on affected stock groups and consistency with the objectives noted in paragraph 1 of this Chapter.

(3) Total fishing mortality

Consistent with paragraph 3 of this Chapter, the CTC will:

- a) specify standardized arrangements for all AABM regimes; and
- b) evaluate and identify fisheries where there is a consistent relation between the catch or harvest index and total mortality.

(4) In-season adjustments

Consistent with paragraph 5 of this Chapter, the CTC will evaluate any proposed in-season abundance predictors to determine if these provide reliable and consistent estimates of final abundance over using pre-season predictions.

(5) Model Improvements

The CTC will continue to review and improve the accuracy and precision of the CTC model, including among other things, determining the pre-season forecasts of the aggregate chinook abundance available to the fisheries.