Data Review Workshop

MEETING OUTCOMES

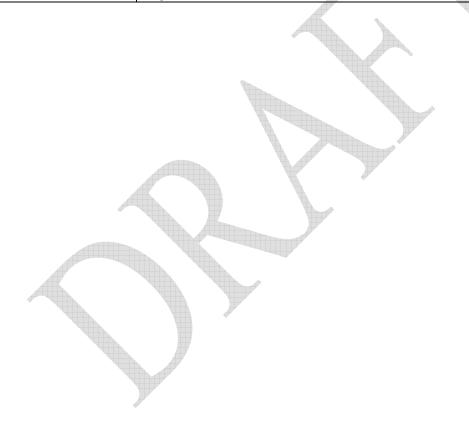|	
Subject:	Reviewing key datasets for Skeena salmon Conservation Units
Location	Terrace Best Western and teleconference from Vancouver
Attendees:	Aaron Hill, Greg Knox, Joy Thorkelson, Luanne Roth, Art Tautz, Josh Korman, Karl English, Dave Peacock, Steve Cox-Rogers, Michael Price, Richard Overstall, Les Clayton & Katrina Connors
Meeting Date:	January 25th, 2012; 11:30am – 5: 00pm

The Pacific Salmon Foundation hosted a technical workshop in Terrace, BC on Wednesday, January 25th to review the data needed to develop benchmarks for salmon Conservation Units (CUs) in the Skeena Watershed. The following table summarizes key elements of the discussion as well as some of the outcomes from this workshop:

Discussion Item	Summary of Discussion
Reviewing the Data	Karl English from LGL Ltd described the core datasets, database systems and analysis tools that are used by DFO stock assessment biologists to track stock status and trends for BC salmon stocks. In his presentation, Karl provided some key examples of estimates of escapement, catch and run size produced for select CUs in the Skeena watershed. Karl identified further refinements to the analyses that will be conducted in the coming weeks including the inclusion of in-river harvests. Participants were provided with an opportunity to ask questions regarding the data analysis process. Many of the questions posed were surrounding the quality of the data. Other individuals sought clarification on how the Babine stock was treated in the analysis (run timing, wild vs enhanced). Karl informed the group that the estimates shown were for the aggregate stock (i.e., both wild and enhanced). Karl's power point presentation and background paper provide additional information on the data assembly project.
Preliminary Analyses	Josh Korman from Ecometrics Research described how he utilized the data compiled by LGL Ltd to conduct preliminary stock recruit curves for Skeena CUs and explore various approaches for developing benchmarks for the Skeena watershed. Josh utilized sockeye CUs as a starting point because of the rich dataset available for this species. Josh described the type of data that was available for Skeena sockeye CUs and how he approached data-deficient CUs in the analysis. Josh also described the different methodologies he employed for estimating upper and lower benchmarks noting the limitations and advantages of the different methods. Josh emphasized the preliminary nature of the analyses and informed the group that additional tweaking to the model would be required in the coming weeks (e.g., adjusting the strength of the priors, redoing the Babine component looking only at wild stocks and the three

	run timing groups that DFO has identified). Josh noted that he will eventually be proceeding with similar analyses for the remaining species. He also recommended undertaking a management strategy evaluation, beginning with sockeye, that would allow people to examine the trade-offs between conservation and yield under various harvest scenarios. PSF will continue to support Josh in pursuing these next steps and will keep people informed of his progress and future opportunities for exchanging information and soliciting feedback.
Developing Steelhead Benchmarks	Art Tautz described the work he has recently undertaken to develop Conservation Units for Skeena steelhead, a prerequisite for developing steelhead benchmarks. Art also noted the difficulties associated with trying to develop benchmarks for steelhead because of insufficient data. He said that in the future escapement estimates may be derived from various metrics including the number of adult steelhead per kilometer or angler success.