

Working Group on Salmon Marking (WGSM) Terms of Reference

The working group is composed of one or more members from each Party, and subject to approval by CSRS, designates one official chairperson who shall preside over the working group and act as the primary representative for the working group. The working group will report annually to CSRS on progress of its work that will include proposed changes in membership.

The primary goal of the Working Group on Salmon Marking (WGSM) is to provide a forum for promoting, coordinating, and documenting otolith mark and tag releases of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout in the North Pacific Ocean and to increase knowledge on stock-specific ocean distribution and migration required for stock and fishery management.

Subject to approval by CSRS:

The WGSM shall on an annual basis:

- examine and recommend resolution of issues relating to otolith marking;
- coordinate otolith mark patterns among NPAFC-member countries to minimize mark conflicts;
- compile and manage the international database of otolith mark releases information, including images of otolith mark patterns (housed at ADFG);
- provide an annual summary of the high seas Pacific salmon and steelhead trout tag releases and recoveries to the CSRS;
- coordinate with the Secretariat for managing and providing timely updates to the tag release and recovery databases;
- encourage reporting of tag recoveries from the public and encourage working group members to coordinate recoveries of tags in their own countries; and
- provide information for outreach materials for the website and other media, as required.

In addition, the WGSM shall:

- promote the development and standards of otolith mark techniques;
- exchange information on recoveries and application of otolith marks and tagging for Pacific salmon and steelhead trout biology and stock management;
- review the use of otolith marks assigned to member countries;
- cooperate with other working groups to examine stock-specific ocean distribution and migration behavior of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout;
- promote publication of results of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout marking contributing to knowledge of their ocean biology; and
- complete tasks appropriate to the working group identified in the current Science Plan.