SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
METHODOLOGY REVIEWS FOR 2000

Mr. Bill Tweit of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) reviewed the current status of the
coho cohort analysis project. This is a cooperative project between WDFW, Oregon Department of Fish
and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northwest Indian Fish Commission, and Treaty Tribes of
Western Washington. The objective of this project is to reconstruct coho salmon cohorts for the 1986
through 1991 time period. One important product of this project will be estimates of exploitation rates
which should be less biased than those currently used by the coho fishery regulatory assessment model
(FRAM). This project is ongoing and has no projected completion date. The Scientific and Statistical
Committee (SSC) identifies this as a very important project that requires completion. The database
produced by the project should be the basis for any new models developed to address fishery
management, including coho FRAM. The SSC recommends this project be given the highest priority by
the agencies involved and completed as soon as possible. The SSC looks forward to reviewing the
results of this project in the near future.

There has been no recent progress on the new Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM). This new model
is badly needed and should receive the highest priority for completion. The SSC expects to see
documentation of the new KOHM in September, prior to the October Council meeting.

In November, the SSC was informed that changes to the chinook FRAM to accommodate selective
fisheries were not complete. The SSC needs a demonstration of the performance of the new chinook
FRAM as part of its review process. Review of the new chinook FRAM needs to occur in October if the
model is to be used for management in the 2001 season.

Three specific areas of possible bias related to the data used in the current chinook FRAM were brought
to the attention of the SSC. These were:

1. Coded wire tags used to represent Lower Columbia River wild chinook stocks.
2. Spring chinook stock composition in the non-treaty troll fishery.
3. Encounter and shaker mortality rates in the treaty troll summer chinook fishery.

The demonstration of the performance of the new chinook FRAM should address these issues, but should
not be limited to these three items. It should be much broader and include a demonstration of the
robustness of the model to changes in the data and other model parameters.

Documentation of changes to methodologies proposed for the 2001 salmon management season should
be submitted to the Council office no later than September 29, 2000. This will ensure the SSC has
adequate time for proper review.

It has been at least eight years since the SSC last reviewed the methodologies used for preseason
salmon abundance forecasts. Methodologies and data used for many of these forecasts have changed
substantially since that time. The SSC recognizes that formal documentation of the forecast
methodologies is a significant project for the agencies involved. The SSC anticipates conducting reviews
of coast-wide forecast methodologies for coho and chinook salmon in October 2001 and requests that
affected agencies plan accordingly.

PFMC
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