

## ESTABLISH SALMON MODEL DOCUMENTATION AND EVALUATION PROCESS

Situation: At its November 2002 meeting, the Council approved the establishment of a Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) to address concerns raised during the Salmon Methodology Review process. The purpose of the group would be to:

- Increase the number of people who understand models employed in the Council salmon management process, can run the models, and make changes to the models, so the departure of any single person does not disrupt model viability.
- Assist with documentation of models.
- Propose changes that would improve the models for their intended management purposes.
- Validate the current models.
- Review and validate any changes to models.
- Conduct postseason evaluations of model performance.
- Conduct a sensitivity analysis of model outputs to specific model inputs.

Dr. Hans Radtke, Dr. Donald McIsaac, Dr. Pete Lawson, Dr. Kevin Hill, Mr. Dell Simmons, and Mr. Chuck Tracy met to discuss membership and leadership of the MEW, and to discuss integration of the MEW with the Council's existing Salmon Methodology Review process. The consensus at the meeting was the initial MEW composition should include the following:

- From Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
  - Programmer
  - Biometrician
  - Data Analyst/Modeler
- From Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
  - Biometrician
  - Data Analyst/Modeler
- From Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission
  - Biometrician
- From Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
  - Biometrician
  - Data Analyst/Modeler
- From U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Data Analyst/Modeler/Programmer
- From National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
  - Data Analyst/Modeler
- A representative from the Salmon Technical Team (STT), and
- Possibly a representative from Canada

One of the members could also fill the role of STT representative if appropriate. It was felt the Chair of the committee should be the NMFS representative. The initial focus for the MEW would be the chinook and coho Fishery Regulation Assessment Models (FRAMs), with the initial tasks being the review and update of model documentation, data inputs, and parameter values. After the documentation tasks are completed, the MEW would explore and implement model improvements. Additional members could be added if needed to address other models. It was felt that an Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) seat on the MEW could compromise the SSC's independent review status. Council staff would provide support with meeting logistics, filing notices, and distributing documents.

The MEW would submit proposed model changes to the Council's Salmon Methodology Review process with the SSC continuing to serve a peer review function. Use of the existing (Council accepted for 2003 use) chinook and coho FRAMs should continue until the MEW has completed the review of model documentation and current data inputs.

At its March 2003 meeting, the Council received the above information along with statements from the SSC and STT requesting additional time to develop alternative recommendations for MEW composition and function. The Council discussion included consideration of (1) starting with a subset of the MEW to complete the documentation of the Chinook and Coho FRAMs, (2) including development of a technical reference manual for the FRAMs as an assigned task, and (3) including membership from California for the broader function of the MEW regarding the coho FRAM since OCN impacts affect California fisheries.

**Council Action:**

1. **Confirm Model Evaluation Work Group (MEW) membership.**
2. **Adopt a process for salmon model documentation and evaluation.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. None.

**Agenda Order:**

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Confirm Model Evaluation Work Group (MEW)  
Membership and Adopt Salmon Model Documentation and Evaluation Process

Chuck Tracy

PFMC  
03/25/03