

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
METHODOLOGY REVIEW PROCESS AND PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION
FOR 2006

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met with Mr. Dell Simmons and other members of the Salmon Technical Team (STT) to identify and discuss methodology reviews for 2006. Five items were identified that for potential SSC review this fall. The review is tentatively scheduled for the second week in September 2006.

Chinook and Coho Fishery Regulation Assessment Model Documentation. The Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) is completing documentation of the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM). The MEW is expected to complete, by the June Council meeting: (1) an overview of FRAM, (2) a detailed FRAM document which contains all algorithms used in the models, (3) a user's manual, and (4) the documentation of the base period data used in the Chinook and Coho FRAM.

Columbia River Ocean Abundance Forecast Methodology. The SSC reviewed a preliminary report in October 2005 and recommended that a preferred model and data set be selected. The MEW has since responded to this request and is preparing an evaluation of the model's performance for the SSC.

Coweeman Exploitation Rate. The Coweeman exploitation rate has been much higher than forecasted in the annual Preseason Report III. The STT has made modifications to correct this bias in its forecast and has requested that the SSC review these modifications.

Oregon Coastal Natural (OCN) Predictor Methodology. A revision has been proposed to the methodology for predicting the OCN ocean abundance.

Klamath Ocean Harvest Model - Contact Rates and Catch Projections. Contact rates for Klamath River fall Chinook were much higher in 2004 and 2005 than previously observed and this stock will significantly constrain several Council salmon fisheries in 2006. An exploration of potential factors that led to the unusual Klamath contact rates in 2004 and 2005 could help prevent a recurrence.

As always, the SSC requires good documentation and ample review time to make efficient use of the SSC Salmon Subcommittee's time. Materials to be reviewed should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the scheduled review. Agencies should be responsible for ensuring that materials submitted to the SSC are technically sound, comprehensive, clearly documented, and identified by author.