

METHODOLOGY REVIEW PROCESS AND PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION FOR 2007

Each year, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) completes a methodology review to help assure new or significantly modified methodologies employed to estimate impacts of the Council's salmon management use the best available science. The process normally involves: developing a list of potential topics for review at the April Council meeting; final selection of review topics at the September Council meeting; review of selected topics in October by the SSC Salmon Subcommittee and the Salmon Technical Team (STT); and review by the full SSC at the November Council meeting. This review process is preparatory to the Council's adoption, at the November meeting, of all proposed changes to be implemented in the coming season or, in certain limited cases, providing directions for handling any unresolved methodology problems prior to the formulation of salmon management options in March. Because there is insufficient time to review new or modified methods at the March meeting, the Council may reject their use if they have not been approved the preceding November.

In 2006, the SSC reviewed two topics: 1) the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) documentation for the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM); and 2) proposed Columbia River fall Chinook ocean abundance forecast methodology.

For 2007 there are several issues the Council may want to consider when setting priorities for the methodology review based on the list of topics from 2006:

1. The MEW has completed work on the detailed FRAM documentation and may recommend future work priorities.
2. The contact rate and catch projection portions of the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model, in light of the recent year performance of age-4 harvest rate forecasts and the implications for Endangered Species Act listed California coastal Chinook consultation standards.
3. September 1 maturity date for Klamath River fall Chinook. Fall fishery impacts need to be accurately attributed to the correct brood year and appropriate tag codes used to represent the natural portion of the run. This could help reduce the uncertainty associated with setting fall fisheries.
4. Coho Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) base period update. The Council should maintain concurrence with the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) coho model and review the base period update for the Coho FRAM to ensure consistency and accuracy.
5. Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) study proposal. A detailed study design for the ongoing and proposed GSI projects could be reviewed by the SSC to facilitate the issuance of exempted fishing permits, if necessary.

The SSC will receive input from the STT and the MEW, and provide recommendations for methodologies to be reviewed in 2007.

Council Task:

- 1. Provide guidance to the SSC regarding potential topics and priorities for methodologies to be reviewed in 2006.**
- 2. Request affected agencies develop and provide needed materials to the SSC, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.3.b, Supplemental SSC Report: Scientific and Statistical Committee Report on Methodology Reviews for 2007.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report
- c. State, Tribal, and Federal Agency Recommendations
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. Council Guidance on Potential Methodologies to Review in 2007

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