

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON SALMON METHODOLOGY REVIEW

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) reviewed the methodologies being considered at this meeting and attended the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) deliberations, and offers the following recommendations.

The SAS agrees with the improved marine survival predictor for Oregon coastal natural (OCN) coho as well as the proposal to use the existing OCN coho predictor as a fallback, should the life cycle monitoring method fail to produce a prediction.

The SAS supports the proposed improvements to the Sacramento Index predictor and concurs with the SSC on a recommendation to move forward with Model 8. The SAS appreciates efforts to investigate inclusion of environmental indicators in the forecast and encourages further work in this regard.

The SAS supports the inclusion of observed sublegal encounter rates and corrections to the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model to improve the model's ability to assess the effects of proposed size-limit changes. The SAS recommends inclusion of these FRAM improvements in advance of the 2014 preseason process.

The SAS believes the proposed risk assessment provides a promising tool for assessing the relative risks of alternative harvest policies for Lower Columbia natural coho. The SAS appreciates the hard work that has been done on this matter, but suggests that this is only the first step in the process of revising harvest policy. The SAS recommends that the Council, the States, and the National Marine Fisheries Service build on this first step by working with stakeholders and the public to develop alternative harvest strategies in time for implementation in 2015. This stakeholder process should be modeled after the successful review of lower Columbia River tule fall Chinook harvest policies.

PFMC
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