

SALMON METHODOLOGY REVIEW

Each year, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Salmon technical Team (STT) complete 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. This review 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 the following 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.

The Methodology Review is also used as a forum to review updated stock conservation objective proposals, which allows the Council to approve updates at the November meeting and allows adequate time for planning fisheries in the subsequent year. The Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) allows conservation objectives to be updated without a formal FMP amendment, provided a comprehensive technical review of the best scientific information available provides conclusive evidence that, in the view of the STT, SSC, and the Council, justifies a modification.

At its April 2014 meeting, the Council adopted the following priority candidate items that the SSC and STT may consider for the 2014 Salmon Methodology Review. Source entities to deliver detailed reports for SSC review are included in brackets with each candidate item.

The following were identified as priority items:

- Willapa Bay natural coho conservation objective, annual catch limit and status determination criteria (STT, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW]).
- Southern Oregon coastal Chinook conservation objective (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife).
- Standardized method for calculation of age-2 Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) stock scalars (Model Evaluation Workgroup [MEW]).
- Progress report on new Chinook FRAM base period (MEW).
- New conservation objective for Grays Harbor Chinook (WDFW, Quinault Indian Nation).

These subjects and the responsible agencies were identified in a reminder email dated May 14, 2014, which requested agencies prepare to speak to the status of the subjects in terms of completeness and priority (Agenda Item D.1.a, Attachment 1).

During the 2014 preseason salmon process, the Council also expressed interest in a review of fishery impact estimation methodology relative to the Cape Flattery Control Zone. This and other review topics or conservation objective updates may be considered for review at this meeting, provided responsible agencies or individuals are prepared to justify their inclusion. All materials for review are to be received at the Council office at least two weeks prior to the review meeting

of the SSC Salmon Subcommittee and STT, which is scheduled for October 21-23, 2014 in Portland.

Council Action:

1. **Determine if topics identified for review will be ready for the joint SSC Salmon Subcommittee - STT meeting in October.**
2. **Set priorities for review of methodologies and/or conservation objective update proposals.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.1.a, Attachment 1: May 14, 2014 email to the agencies from Mike Burner regarding preliminary topic selection.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Review Priorities

Mike Burner

PFMC
08/14/14