

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON METHODOLOGY REVIEW PROCESS AND
PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION FOR 2013

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) met with the Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Model Evaluation Workgroup and Mr. Mike Burner of the Council staff to discuss potential topics for review in 2013. The STT has identified the following topics as candidates for review by the STT and the Salmon Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) in October, with the lead entity in parentheses:

- 1 Oregon Coast Natural (OCN) coho marine survival indicator (OPITT). Last year the Council adopted the use of a single natural coho population in the Yaquina basin as an indicator of survival for OCN coho in the harvest matrix used as a control rule in the salmon fishery management plan (FMP). The Council adopted this for use just for 2013, and the topic should be reconsidered this year for use in 2014.
- 2 Lower Columbia Natural coho harvest rate matrix (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife [ODFW], Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW]). The current harvest rate matrix was initially developed with the intent of application to ocean fisheries. In its annual guidance letter to the Council, NMFS has used the harvest rates from this matrix as upper limits on the combined impacts of ocean and mainstem Columbia River fisheries. The States of Oregon and Washington would like to review a revised analysis to address perceived shortcomings of the current matrix.
- 3 Willapa Bay natural coho conservation objective, annual catch limit (ACL) and status determination criteria (SDC) (STT, WDFW). Willapa Bay coho were added to the FMP by the adoption of Amendment 16, yet they have no FMP conservation objective, specified annual catch limits, or status determination criteria, and are neither managed under an international agreement, listed under the Endangered Species Act, nor a hatchery stock. Consequently, they are currently out of compliance with requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and NOAA's National Standard 1 Guidelines. The STT would like to establish the required reference points and bring this stock into compliance.
- 4 Southern Oregon coastal Chinook conservation objective, ACL, and SDC (ODFW). Southern Oregon coastal Chinook are part of the Southern Oregon Northern California Chinook stock complex in the FMP while Mid-Oregon coastal and Northern Oregon coastal Chinook are part of the far north migrating Chinook stock complex. However, the Oregon coastal Chinook have an aggregate conservation objective of 60 to 90 spawners per mile. Far north migrating Chinook stocks are subject to management under the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, while Southern Oregon coastal Chinook are not. Southern stocks also appear to have different production characteristics than far north migrating stocks. Oregon would like to review an independent conservation objective and status determination criteria for Southern Oregon coastal Chinook.

- 5 Evaluation of alternative Sacramento Index forecast methodologies (STT). Last year the STT modified the data range used to forecast the Sacramento Index. There is continued interest in investigating the relative performance of alternative methods.

The SAS, STT, and members of the SSC participated in a workshop to evaluate the data, analyses, and prospects for developing alternative abundance-based control rules as consultation standards for listed Sacramento winter Chinook (SRWC) and California coastal Chinook (CCC).

The management strategy evaluation analysis used to inform the current NMFS consultation standard for SRWC considered a wide range of alternative control rules including no fishing, historical fishery impact rates, recent fishery impact rates, and control rules that included *de minimis* fishing with control rules that go to zero at zero abundance and at abundance levels greater than zero. The range of control rules were evaluated both in terms of extinction risk and effects on fishing opportunity. The results were consistent, predictable, and can be used to reasonably infer the effects of the range of control rules considered. The analyses were subsequently peer reviewed and published in a scientific journal. The STT believes that additional review is not necessary and that consideration of alternative control rules is a policy issue rather than a technical one.

With regard to California Coastal Chinook, the STT is encouraged by efforts currently underway to improve monitoring of this evolutionarily significant unit (ESU). However, data that currently exist do not appear to be adequate to develop a defensible abundance-based management strategy based on the status of CCC. Escapement and harvest cannot currently be adequately quantified to develop an index-based model, let alone age-structured assessment or harvest models, and there appear to be no stocks within the ESU having adequate assessment data to serve as indicator stocks. Studies on the marine distribution of CCC based on historic CWTs, and more recently on genetic stock identification, are consistent with the assumptions underpinning the current consultation standard. The STT does not believe that there are any technical issues at this time that warrant review by the STT and SSC for use in 2014 management.

PFMC
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