

METHODOLOGY REVIEW PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION

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; development of analytical materials to be reviewed between April and September Council meetings; 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.

The SSC will receive input from the STT and the Model Evaluation Workgroup, and provide recommendations for methodologies to be reviewed in 2014.

Last fall's methodology review meeting of the SSC Salmon Subcommittee, and the STT, and the Model Evaluation Workgroup occurred on October 1-2, 2013 at the onset of the Federal government furlough. Accordingly, no employees of Federal agencies were in attendance, which restricted the group's ability to fully review the proposals. Therefore, the modified objective of the meeting was to conduct an initial review of the analyses, discuss alternative ways of completing the compromised review, and to prioritize items for the 2013 review. Methodology topics were prioritized for full SSC review at the November 2013 Council meeting based on two main criteria; 1) the technical merits of the analysis and the documentation, and 2) the proposed methodology's potential to directly improve the 2014 preseason process.

Although considerable progress was made on the following topics, they were not recommended for full SSC review in November 2013. Therefore, the Council and its advisors should review their status and consider them for inclusion in the 2014 methodology review process:

- Conservation objectives, annual catch limits, and status determination criteria for Willapa Bay coho.
- Conservation objectives for southern Oregon coastal Chinook.
- Standardized method to calculate Chinook age 2 FRAM stock recruit scalars.
- Progress Report: new Chinook FRAM base period.

Additionally, the Council will receive and update from the Lower Columbia River Natural (LCN) Coho Workgroup under Agenda Item, F.4 regarding progress on the review of harvest and recovery policies for LCN coho listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Council may identify additional preliminary topics for the 2014 methodology review under Agenda Item F.4.

Council Task:

- 1. Provide guidance to the SSC regarding potential topics and priorities for methodologies to be reviewed in 2014.**
- 2. Request relevant agencies develop and provide needed materials to the SSC, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.3.b, Supplemental SSC Report: Scientific and Statistical Committee Report on Methodology Reviews for 2014.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Guidance on Potential Methodologies to Review in 2014

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