

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON METHODOLOGY REVIEW FOR 2014

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) met with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) on April 4, to discuss potential topics for the Methodology Review in October 2014. Several topics that were scheduled for last year's review were not presented at that time, and have carried over for 2014. These include:

- 1) Willapa Bay natural coho conservation objective, annual catch limit and status determination criteria (STT, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (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 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Standard 1 Guidelines. The STT would like to establish the required reference points and bring this stock into compliance.
- 2) Southern Oregon coastal Chinook conservation objective (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife). 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, 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 has developed a new conservation objective for Southern Oregon coastal Chinook that may be implemented without FMP amendment if the proposal is evaluated at the Methodology Review.
- 3) Standardized method for calculation of age-2 Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) stock scalars (MEW).
- 4) Progress report on new Chinook FRAM base period (MEW).

One additional topic was identified:

New conservation objective for Grays Harbor Chinook (WDFW, QIN). The current conservation objective of 14,600 Chinook salmon is based on available habitat and was not accepted by the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC). In February, the PSC's Chinook Technical Committee reviewed a spawner-recruit analysis for Grays Harbor Chinook and accepted the recommended maximum sustainable yield escapement goal of 13,500. With review and recommendation by the STT and SSC, this goal could be accepted by the Council to make the FMP conservation objective consistent with the PSC goal.