

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
METHODOLOGY REVIEWS FOR 2000

Mr. Bill Tweit of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) reviewed the current status of the coho cohort analysis project. This is a cooperative project between WDFW, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northwest Indian Fish Commission, and Treaty Tribes of Western Washington. The objective of this project is to reconstruct coho salmon cohorts for the 1986 through 1991 time period. One important product of this project will be estimates of exploitation rates which should be less biased than those currently used by the coho fishery regulatory assessment model (FRAM). This project is ongoing and has no projected completion date. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) identifies this as a very important project that requires completion. The database produced by the project should be the basis for any new models developed to address fishery management, including coho FRAM. The SSC recommends this project be given the highest priority by the agencies involved and completed as soon as possible. The SSC looks forward to reviewing the results of this project in the near future.

There has been no recent progress on the new Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM). This new model is badly needed and should receive the highest priority for completion. The SSC expects to see documentation of the new KOHM in September, prior to the October Council meeting.

In November, the SSC was informed that changes to the chinook FRAM to accommodate selective fisheries were not complete. The SSC needs a demonstration of the performance of the new chinook FRAM as part of its review process. Review of the new chinook FRAM needs to occur in October if the model is to be used for management in the 2001 season.

Three specific areas of possible bias related to the data used in the current chinook FRAM were brought to the attention of the SSC. These were:

1. Coded wire tags used to represent Lower Columbia River wild chinook stocks.
2. Spring chinook stock composition in the non-treaty troll fishery.
3. Encounter and shaker mortality rates in the treaty troll summer chinook fishery.

The demonstration of the performance of the new chinook FRAM should address these issues, but should not be limited to these three items. It should be much broader and include a demonstration of the robustness of the model to changes in the data and other model parameters.

Documentation of changes to methodologies proposed for the 2001 salmon management season should be submitted to the Council office no later than September 29, 2000. This will ensure the SSC has adequate time for proper review.

It has been at least eight years since the SSC last reviewed the methodologies used for preseason salmon abundance forecasts. Methodologies and data used for many of these forecasts have changed substantially since that time. The SSC recognizes that formal documentation of the forecast methodologies is a significant project for the agencies involved. The SSC anticipates conducting reviews of coast-wide forecast methodologies for coho and chinook salmon in October 2001 and requests that affected agencies plan accordingly.

PFMC
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