

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
METHODOLOGY REVIEW PROCESS FOR 2003

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met with Mr. Dell Simmons of the Salmon Technical Team (STT) to identify and prioritize potential methodology review issues for the coming year. Current issues include unresolved items from 2002 and one new item. The SSC has identified the following list of methodology review issues for 2003/2004 and places highest priority on the first three items:

1. Chinook and coho FRAM documentation: documentation of the chinook and coho FRAMs will be one of the first tasks of the new Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW). Review of this documentation will greatly facilitate review of Items 2 and 3.
2. Chinook FRAM for mark-selective fisheries: the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife modified the chinook FRAM to accommodate mark-selective fisheries. The SSC could not endorse chinook FRAM as a tool for mark-selective fisheries in 2003, but application of the model to estimate mark-selective fishery impacts should be reviewed if such a fishery is planned for 2004 and beyond. The SSC views this as a high priority.
3. Coho FRAM fisheries for Canadian stocks: the Coho Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) is modifying the coho FRAM to add fishery and stock strata for Canadian management. The PSC has requested SSC review of these changes before they are implemented in 2004.
4. Columbia River Fall chinook ocean abundance predictors: there has been some preliminary work on producing ocean run-size predictors for these stocks. The SSC will review these predictors when they have been fully developed and documented.
5. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife management plan for Lower Columbia River coho salmon: the draft plan needs data cleanup and method improvements. The SSC anticipates a document will be presented for review in October 2003.
6. Oregon Coastal Natural (OCN) coho salmon prediction methodology: new predictors are in development. The SSC will review any proposals for change as requested.

As always, the SSC requires good documentation and ample review time to make efficient use of the SSC Salmon Subcommittee's time. Agencies should be responsible for ensuring materials submitted to the SSC are technically sound, comprehensive, clearly documented, and identified by author.