

MODEL EVALUATION WORKGROUP REPORT ON  
SALMON METHODOLOGY REVIEW:  
FINAL PRIORITIZATION OF MODELING ISSUES FOR SSC

The Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) has met three times since formed by the Council in June of this year, twice in person and once by conference call. The Council directed the MEW to document the Fisheries Regulation and Assessment Model (FRAM) as a first priority. The MEW is actively working toward completion of this task and has decided on a three-step approach. Step one is to create a FRAM 'Overview' document. The Overview will provide a general description of FRAM. For example, it will define the chinook and coho stocks and fisheries included, time steps included, as well as information on such things as the various types and magnitudes of incidental mortality rates used in different fisheries. It will also include a flow chart of computations within FRAM, a list of the fundamental equations used, and a description of some of the ancillary models used, such as the Terminal Area Management Modules (TAMMs). The Overview's target audience is members of the Council family who would like some general information about what FRAM is and does, but do not need to know the details of FRAM operation. Step two will be to complete what we are referring to as the FRAM 'bible'. This document is envisioned to be both a programmer's guide to FRAM, with detailed listings of all equations and computations in both the chinook and coho FRAMs, as well as containing documentation of model base data and instructions for completing a base period calibration of FRAM. Step three is to produce a FRAM 'Users Guide'. We anticipate this will be somewhat of a 'cookbook' to assist a new FRAM user in making a forward model run given a calibrated model.

Each year, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is asked by the Council to conduct a review of any proposed changes to methodologies used by the Council to estimate fishery impacts during the preseason planning process. Last spring, the Council approved a list of six items for potential SSC review. Of these six, the MEW recommends that two be reviewed.

1. The MEW anticipates the FRAM 'Overview' document will be in a final draft form by early October. We recommend the Council request the SSC and the Salmon Technical Team (STT) to review the draft document and provide comments back to the MEW.
2. The Coho Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission is modifying the coho FRAM to add fishery and stock strata for Canadian management needs. These modifications should be completed soon and will be reviewed by the SSC.

In addition, last April the Council directed the STT to begin reporting annually the anticipated Individual Stock Based Management (ISBM) indices for selected stocks as defined in the 1999 Revised Annexes to the Pacific Salmon Treaty with Canada. The MEW would like to present the formula for the index to the SSC for its information, comments, and suggestions.

PFMC  
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