

## SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) and the Salmon Subcommittee of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met on October 23, 2003 to review methodology changes for the 2004 management season. Two items were reviewed: changes to the Coho Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM), and FRAM documentation.

### **Coho FRAM**

Changes were made to the Coho FRAM to accommodate Canadian fishery planning needs for implementation of the Pacific Salmon Commission's Coho Abundance Based Management agreement (CoABM). These changes include (1) changes in fishery strata for fisheries in Central British Columbia, Johnstone Strait, and the Strait of Georgia, and (2) changes in the representation of Canadian production regions. Changes to the production regions include reconfiguration to represent the regional aggregates specified in the CoABM, incorporation of additional CWT codes in the input files, new methodology for estimating escapement in areas where escapement estimates were not previously available, and estimates of hatchery and wild production.

The STT believes these changes represent a substantial improvement in the Coho FRAM and endorses the use of the updated model for the 2004 management season. However, the STT notes that the results of the modified model are not consistent with the results of the previous model, especially with respect to impacts on the Upper Fraser (including Thompson) stock, and anticipates the Pacific Salmon Commission will need to revisit aspects of the CoABM agreement. The STT also notes that the model results are preliminary and will be subject to continued technical review and error checking over the next few weeks. The STT urges the Coho Technical Committee to continue their evaluation of the model modifications.

### **Model Documentation**

The Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) presented a draft Overview of the Coho and Chinook FRAM. The MEW intends to also produce a Users Manual detailing the operation of the model and a Programmers Guide with much more detailed documentation of the model algorithms. The STT recommends the Overview be finalized and the MEW then focus their attention on the Users Manual and Programmers Guide.

PFMC  
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