

MODEL EVALUATION WORKGROUP COMMENTS ON
COUNCIL OPERATION PROCEDURES DOCUMENT

The Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) recommends that the following changes be made to COP 10:

PURPOSE

To establish a schedule and procedures governing the annual salmon management process beginning in January and ending in April. The process is limited by available time, as stock abundance forecasts are not available until early ~~late~~ February and regulations must be in place by May 1. Therefore, the process must be as efficient as possible while maximizing the opportunity for public involvement. The principal features of the process are (1) a March meeting to adopt realistic preliminary ocean salmon fishery management options, (2) public hearings, and (3) an April meeting to adopt final management recommendations. Several non-Council meetings are also complementary to this process, including (1) meetings held prior to the March Council meeting in which state/federal managers review Salmon Technical Team preseason forecasts reports with Salmon Advisory Subpanel members and members of the general public, (2) meetings of the Klamath Fishery Management Council, and (3) meetings of the North of Cape Falcon Forum between the March and April Council meetings.

The forecasts are available in early February, in time for Preseason Report I to be completed, and although the Salmon Technical Team (STT) reports forecasts and is responsible for producing some, many of the forecasts are made by state and tribal personnel outside the STT, particularly north of Cape Falcon.

PFMC
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