

METHODOLOGY REVIEW PROCESS AND PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION FOR 2005

Each year, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) completes a methodology review to help assure new or significantly modified methodologies employed to estimate impacts of the Council's salmon management use the best available science. The process normally involves: developing a list of potential topics for review at the April Council meeting; final selection of review topics at the September Council meeting; review of selected topics in October by the SSC Salmon Subcommittee and the Salmon Technical Team (STT); and review by the full SSC at the November Council meeting. This review process is preparatory to the Council's adoption, at the November meeting, of all proposed changes to be implemented in the coming season or, in certain limited cases, providing directions for handling any unresolved methodology problems prior to the formulation of salmon management options in March. Because there is insufficient time to review new or modified methods at the March meeting, the Council may reject their use if they have not been approved the preceding November.

In 2004, the SSC reviewed a report on mark selective chinook fisheries that took place in Washington Areas 5 and 6 during 2003 and 2004.

For 2005 there are at least four issues the Council may want to consider when setting priorities for the methodology review:

1. The Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) is scheduled to complete work on the detailed Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) documentation this summer, and a review of the documentation would assist the SSC in evaluation of the FRAM and any proposed modifications.
2. For 2003 and 2004, the Council approved use of a revised Chinook FRAM to assess impacts from a mark selective chinook fishery proposed for Washington Marine Areas 5 and 6, provided the fishery did not exceed 41 days during July and August, or a landed chinook quota of 3,500 fish. The Council recommended the chinook FRAM receive additional review prior to implementation of any expanded or additional mark selective chinook fisheries, and formed the MEW to assist in documenting the FRAMs to facilitate such a review. If there are plans to consider expanded mark selective chinook fisheries, the additional chinook FRAM review should occur during this review cycle.
3. At the March 2005 meeting, the SSC recommended the contact rates and catch projection portions of the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model be reviewed in light of recent year performance of age-4 harvest rate forecasts and the implications for Endangered Species Act listed California coastal chinook consultation standards.

4. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is developing a technical appendix to the Oregon coastal natural Work Group matrix as recommended by the Council at its November 2000 meeting, when it accepted the matrix as expert scientific advice. ODFW is considering completing the technical appendix and submitting the matrix as a technical amendment to the salmon fishery management plan (FMP). The salmon FMP allows changes to conservation objectives for natural stocks without formal amendment if “a comprehensive technical review of the best scientific information available provides conclusive evidence that, in the view of the STT, SSC, and the Council, justifies a modification.” The salmon FMP also states “Insofar as possible, changes for natural stocks will only be reviewed and approved within the schedule established for salmon estimation methodology reviews (completed at the November meeting prior to the season in which they are effective) and apart from the preseason planning process.” Therefore, if ODFW intends to proceed with the technical amendment, the Council should consider including it on the list of methodology review subjects.

The SSC will receive input from the STT and the MEW, and provide recommendations for methodologies to be reviewed in 2005.

Council Task:

- 1. Provide guidance to the SSC regarding potential topics and priorities for methodologies to be reviewed in 2005.**
- 2. Request affected agencies develop and provide needed materials to the SSC, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.3.b, Supplemental SSC Report: Scientific and Statistical Committee Report on Methodology Reviews for 2005.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Report of the SSC
- c. Recommendations of the States, Tribes, and Federal Agencies
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. Council Guidance on Potential Methodologies To Be Reviewed in 2005

Chuck Tracy
Pete Lawson

PFMC
03/18/05