

## MODEL EVALUATION WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORT

The Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) held a work planning session on Tuesday, May 31, 2005 at the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Conference Center in Olympia, Washington. MEW members in attendance were Mr. Dell Simmons, Mr. Larrie LaVoy, Mr. Jim Packer, Mr. Robert Conrad, Mr. Andy Rankis, Ms. Angelika Hagen-Breaux, Mr. Henry Yuen, and Mr. Chuck Tracy. The purpose of the meeting was to update progress of ongoing projects, discuss potential agenda topics for the fall Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Salmon Methodology Review, and make assignments to accomplish priority projects.

Once again, the highest priority project for the MEW is completing detailed Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) documentation. The Overview document has been completed and accepted by the Council. Periodic edits and updates to this document are expected to occur as the FRAM model is modified. The other pieces to the overall documentation task, including a Users Manual and detailed discussion of the base period data development, are at varying levels of completion and will be produced this summer.

The MEW expects the Users Manual and the detailed documentation of the model base data and modeling processes will be ready for presentation at the SSC Salmon Methodology Review this fall. This would fulfill the MEW assignment to document the FRAM. Pending the completion of other work tasks, Mr. Packer also discussed working on a "Programmer's Guide" for those individuals interested in model programming processes/approaches. The Programmer's Guide would be considered auxiliary to the normal documentation task.

Other issues appropriate for MEW review were discussed including a calibration/validation of Chinook FRAM and 1992-1997 coho run reconstruction work by the Pacific Salmon Commission Coho Technical Committee and others. Several MEW members will be working on the Chinook FRAM calibration. The purpose of the calibration is to incorporate updated catch, abundance, and coded-wire tag (CWT) recovery data and to produce postseason FRAM runs for 1983-2003 fishing years. The MEW briefly discussed two issues relevant to the calibration/validation process. The subject of modeling fisheries having no base period impacts in the time/area strata was discussed as well as incorporating new stocks in the model, such as Sacramento River chinook. The MEW concluded that modifications such as these could result in significant changes to fishery impact assessments and should not be undertaken prior to discussions with the SSC and their opportunity to review the FRAM documentation. A progress report on the Chinook FRAM calibration/validation and the 1992-1997 coho cohort reconstruction will be prepared for the SSC Methodology Review.

Members of the MEW will be working with the Council's Salmon Technical Team (STT) to refine methods for developing 'ocean abundance' type forecasts and their corresponding FRAM inputs for Columbia River fall chinook stocks.

The MEW discussed Lyons Ferry CWT vs. FRAM-based indices of fishery impacts in Council area fisheries north and south of Cape Falcon. FRAM generated impact and catch estimates for fisheries south of Cape Falcon are hampered by low stock representation in FRAM, especially when abundances of non-represented stocks like Sacramento chinook are so much different than during the model base period. The method for deriving effort scalars for south of Cape Falcon fisheries will be reviewed.

The MEW tentatively scheduled a chinook FRAM calibration subgroup work session July 19-21, 2005 and a general meeting August 16, 2005 to prepare materials for the fall Methodology Review.

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