

METHODOLOGY REVIEW PROCESS AND PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION FOR 2006

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 2005, the SSC reviewed two topics: 1) the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) documentation for the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM); and 2) proposed Columbia River fall Chinook ocean abundance forecast methodology.

For 2006 there are at least three issues the Council may want to consider when setting priorities for the methodology review:

1. The MEW is scheduled to complete work on the detailed FRAM documentation this summer, and a review of the documentation would assist the SSC in evaluation of the FRAM and any proposed modifications.
2. A follow up on Columbia River fall Chinook ocean abundance forecast methodology to compare various alternative methodologies. This topic would be contingent upon the Columbia River Technical Advisory Committee evaluation of methods which forecast ocean abundance directly, and a determination if the continued use of river-mouth abundance forecasts is warranted.
3. The contact rate and catch projection portions of the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model in light of the recent year performance of age-4 harvest rate forecasts and the implications for Endangered Species Act listed California coastal Chinook consultation standards.

The SSC will receive input from the STT and the MEW, and provide recommendations for methodologies to be reviewed in 2006.

Council Task:

- 1. Provide guidance to the SSC regarding potential topics and priorities for methodologies to be reviewed in 2006.**
- 2. Request affected agencies develop and provide needed materials to the SSC, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.3.b, Supplemental SSC Report: Scientific and Statistical Committee Report on Methodology Reviews for 2006.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Scientific and Statistical Committee Report
- c. State, Tribal, and Federal Agency Recommendations
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. Council Guidance on Potential Methodologies to be Reviewed in 2006

Chuck Tracy
Pete Lawson

PFMC
03/16/06