

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON FISHERY REGULATION
ASSESSMENT MODEL (FRAM)

Mr. Andy Rankis and Mr. Larrie LaVoy met with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and described recent progress by the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) on the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) documentation. They presented five documents:

- 1) User Manual,
- 2) FRAM Overview,
- 3) FRAM Technical Documentation,
- 4) Chinook FRAM Base Data Development, and
- 5) Coho FRAM Base Data Development.

Documents 2 through 5 were revisions of documents reviewed by the SSC and Salmon Technical Team (STT) in November 2005. Document 1, the User Manual, was newly created in response to review comments.

The MEW made a concerted effort to address the comments of the SSC and the STT from the November 2005 review. As a result, the documentation is clearer and better organized. Figures are better linked to the text, fuller explanations of processes such as Production Expansion Factor development and Out-of-Base-Period stock methods are provided, and background material has been added. These, among other changes, represent substantial improvements to the documentation.

Mr. Rankis reported that the Coho FRAM Base Data Development documentation is still under revision. Completion depends on the work of the Coho Technical Team of the Pacific Salmon Commission, which is currently developing methods to integrate Canadian stocks into the model.

The MEW has requested comments from the SSC to guide continuing refinement of the model documentation. To achieve this, the SSC salmon subcommittee is planning a meeting, perhaps in late August, to consider these documents more fully. The MEW cited several areas where improvements are needed and will continue to work on the documents over the summer.