SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON METHODOLOGY REVIEW PROCESS AND PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION FOR 2007

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met with members of the Salmon Technical Team (STT) to identify and discuss methodology reviews for 2007. Four items were identified for potential SSC review this fall.

1. Chinook and Coho Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM). The Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) has completed work on draft documentation of the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM). Coded wire tag (CWT) surrogates are needed for certain lower Columbia River wild coho and wild Chinook stocks. Criteria for selection and evaluation of surrogates for use in the FRAM are issues for review.

2. Coho FRAM. Two preliminary reports have been prepared: a report on base period development for input into the Coho FRAM, and a report on selection of years for base period averaging. The SSC plans to provide review comments to the authors at the June Council meeting.

3. Chinook and Coho FRAM. With completion of draft documentation for the FRAMs, the MEW should conduct sensitivity analyses of the models to major assumptions, including sensitivity to parameters related to mark-selective fisheries such as drop-off rates, drop-off mortality rates, release mortality rates, and mark misidentification. The SSC will review results of these analyses, when complete.

4. Genetic Stock Identification (GSI). Study designs for the ongoing and proposed statistical sampling of ocean salmon harvest for GSI should be reviewed.

Two issues identified by the Council relative to Klamath River fall Chinook will not be reviewed, because apparently new data or analyses are not available. These issues deal with the contact rate and catch projection portions of the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model and the assumed September 1 maturity date for Klamath River fall Chinook. If new information becomes available, the SSC can review the issues at a later time.

Further, the SSC recommends that all current FRAM documentation be made available on the Council's FTP or World Wide Web site. In addition, a central location of documentation is needed for the methods and data used in the annual pre-season abundance forecasts and post-season estimates for Chinook and Coho salmon. Currently, it is difficult to review these forecasts and estimates as documentation of methods needed for critical review is not readily available.

PFMC
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