

MODEL EVALUATION WORKGROUP REPORT ON POTENTIAL FUTURE WORK TASKS

The Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) has largely completed Council assigned work tasks. The Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) documentation task will continue as new questions and future model changes require periodic updates of these documents. The task to develop alternative methods to derive annual forecasts of the ocean abundance of Columbia River fall Chinook also continues as reviewers evaluate the performance of these new methods. However, these maintenance type tasks will not be overly time consuming and at this time the MEW would be able to accept additional work projects if the Council so directs.

The MEW has met and discussed future work tasks that we feel are possible and would improve our fishery assessment tools. Potential tasks we suggest are:

- Explore how to better represent fishery impacts upon Lower Columbia River wild coho (an Endangered Species Act [ESA] listed stock). At present the aggregated impacts on hatchery unmarked stocks are used as a surrogate.
- Evaluate if there are additional, or alternative, coded-wired-tag (CWT) groups to represent fishery impacts upon Lower Columbia River wild Chinook (an ESA listed stock). At present Cowlitz Hatchery tag distribution is being used as a surrogate.
- Performance of Chinook FRAM could be improved, especially for south of Cape Falcon, if California stocks are added. This would not be a trivial task, but work needs to commence to evaluate the feasibility and lay the groundwork for adding these stocks either to FRAM or to the next generation Chinook model. CWT data for Central Valley stocks should be available within the next 8-10 years for inclusion in harvest models.
- The FRAM coho Base Period presently is 1986-1991. The Pacific Salmon Commission Coho Technical Workgroup has been working to expand the years available for construction of alternative base periods. They are nearing completion, and will add six years, covering 1986-1997. The MEW could evaluate the data, methods, and strategies of averaging this expanded set of available years.

PFMC
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