

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
SALMON METHODOLOGY REVIEW

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) was given an update by Mr. Dell Simmons on the status of several subjects that were considered at the April Council meeting as potential candidates for the salmon methodology review in October. The SSC notes that some of these subjects are principally new data applications for existing models, and as such SSC review may not be appropriate or necessary. However, other subjects involve the development of new methodologies or principles where the underlying concepts and technical underpinnings are clearly the purview of SSC review.

Following are SSC recommendations concerning review of the nine subjects that are under consideration:

- *(1) Coded-wire-tag (CWT) representation for lower Columbia River natural coho in the Coho Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM).*
(2) CWT representation for lower Columbia River natural tule Chinook in the Chinook FRAM.
(9) Adding stocks from south of Cape Falcon to the Chinook FRAM.

These three subjects are each data configuration issues for the existing FRAM models. Since the FRAM models are documented and have already undergone SSC review, they do not require additional SSC review for potential use involving new data configurations. However, the SSC requests that, rather than submitting these items to SSC review, changes of this nature be reviewed and documented by the Methodology Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) and presented to the SSC in a status report.

- *(3) Development of the Recovery Exploitation Rates currently used for Lower Columbia River natural tule Chinook.*
(4) Development of the Recovery Exploitation Rates currently used for Lower Columbia natural coho.

Mr. Simmons informed the SSC that there is a report available for Item 3, but not for Item 4. The SSC is interested in reviewing the general methodology used to estimate Recovery Exploitation Rates and the range of tradeoffs involved, rather than specific applications. These rates are always a compromise between the most rapid recovery scenario (i.e., zero harvest) and an acceptable level of risk in the interest of maintaining fisheries.

- (5) *Coho FRAM base period development and selection of years for base period averaging for input into the Coho FRAM.*
 These two subjects involve simulations that warrant SSC review of the methodologies employed, and methods for evaluating trade-offs between alternatives. Mr. Simmons reported that the Pacific Salmon Commission is taking the lead on this work, and results should be available for review in October.
- (6) *Sensitivity analyses of the Chinook and Coho FRAMs to major assumptions, including sensitivity to parameters related to mark-selective fisheries.*
 Mr. Simmons informed the SSC that this work will not be ready for review during this management cycle. However, the SSC considers this to be of primary importance as part of the ongoing process of FRAM model review. Analysis of sensitivity of the FRAM models to selective fishery parameters remains a high priority with the SSC.
- (7) *Genetic Stock Identification experimental design, including general purpose experimental objectives, proposed statistical sampling design, and sampling protocols, for West Coast ocean salmon fisheries.*
 The SSC notes that this work is expected to be funded through an SK proposal that is due on 1 October. The technical content of the proposal should be available in time for the salmon methodology review.
- (8) *September 1 maturity boundary (“birth date”) for Klamath River fall Chinook.*
 Mr. Simmons informed the SSC that there is no analysis in process.

The SSC Salmon Subcommittee will review these products in October prior to the full SSC meeting in November. As always, the SSC requires good documentation and ample review time to make efficient use of the SSC Salmon Subcommittee’s time. Materials to be reviewed should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the scheduled review. Agencies should be responsible for ensuring that materials submitted to the SSC are technically sound, comprehensive, clearly documented, and identified by author.

PFMC
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