

### **Salmon Methodology Review**

While the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) statement on Chinook selective Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) did not raise any major red flags, work on model evaluation needs to continue. The Council must be confident that this tool is adequate for assessing fishery impacts from the suite of fisheries that we ultimately recommend for adoption.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has stated that it is their intent to put more mark-selective fisheries on the water. As prudent managers, we need to begin discussion on what constitutes low intensity or low levels of mark-selective fisheries that the SSC and Salmon Technical Team (STT) have alluded to in their reports. What levels of exploitation does the SSC's "provisional" low intensity threshold for marked fish translate into for the associated populations of unmarked fish? Where are we relative to this threshold for the coho and Chinook mark-selective fisheries that are already on the water?

After reviewing the SSC comments, I am concerned whether the FRAM model calculates the information necessary to monitor the impact or intensity levels of mark-selective fisheries. Currently, we monitor impacts to natural, unmarked fish stocks, but the SSC's threshold is expressed as the exploitation rates exerted by mark-selective fisheries on marked fish stocks. The STT should be tasked with providing the Council with their recommendations on what metric should be utilized to monitor the impact or intensity levels of mark-selective fisheries. If these recommendations are for a metric currently not contained within the current FRAM reports, then the appropriate modifications should be made so that they are included. Completion of this work is essential, if the Council is to continue to fulfill its obligation to constrain fishery impacts to sustainable levels on stocks of concern.

PFMC  
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