

2009 SALMON METHODOLOGY REVIEW

Each year, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) completes a methodology review to help assure new or significantly modified methodologies employed to estimate impacts of the Council's salmon management use the best available science. This review is preparatory to the Council's adoption, at the November meeting, of all proposed changes to be implemented in the coming season, or, in certain limited cases, of providing directions for handling any unresolved methodology problems prior to the formulation of salmon management options the following March. Because there is insufficient time to review new or modified methods at the March meeting, the Council may reject their use if they have not been approved the preceding November.

The Methodology Review is also used as a forum to review updated stock conservation objective proposals, which allows the Council to approve updates at the November meeting and allows adequate time for planning fisheries in the subsequent year. The Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) allows conservation objectives to be updated without a formal FMP amendment, provided a comprehensive technical review of the best scientific information available provides conclusive evidence that, in the view of the Salmon Technical Team (STT), SSC, and the Council, justifies a modification. An exception is the 35,000 natural spawner floor for Klamath River fall Chinook which may only be changed by FMP amendment.

At its April 2009 meeting, the Council identified a list of potential subjects for the methodology review. These subjects and the responsible agencies were identified in a reminder email dated July 16, 2009, which requested agencies prepare to speak to the status of the subjects in terms of completeness and priority (Agenda Item G.2.a, Attachment 1). The reminder email also noted the possibility of including proposed conservation objective updates in the process, two of which had been brought to Council Staff's attention: Puget Sound coho and Oregon coast Chinook.

Other review topics or conservation objective updates may be considered for review at this meeting, provided responsible agencies or individuals are prepared to justify their inclusion. All materials for review are to be received at the Council office at least two weeks prior to the scheduled review meeting of the SSC Salmon Subcommittee and Salmon Technical Team (STT), which is scheduled for October 5-6, 2009.

Council Action:

- 1. Determine if topics identified for review will be ready for the joint SSC Salmon Subcommittee - STT meeting in October.**
- 2. Set priorities for review of methodologies and/or conservation objective update proposals.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.2.a, Attachment 1: Email to the agencies from Chuck Tracy dated July 13, 2009.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Chuck Tracy
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Review Priorities

PFMC
08/24/09