

MODEL EVALUATION WORKGROUP REPORT ON THE SALMON METHODOLOGY REVIEW

For the Salmon Methodology Review Meeting, the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) will be ready to present work completed on an updated Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) Base Period. Primarily this work has been focused upon using a more recent set of brood years' coded-wire tag (CWT) recoveries to represent the distribution of Chinook stocks in the ocean and Puget Sound fisheries. Changes to calculation methods used within FRAM will be ready for Methodology review, specifically:

- Revised parameterization of Van Bertalanffy growth curves. To model fisheries with minimum size limit regulations, Chinook FRAM is parameterized with growth functions for computing mean length by stock, age, and model time step. The revised approach differs from what has been done for prior base period calibrations in two important ways. This report will summarize the data and new methodologies used to estimate growth parameters and coefficients of variation used in the 2015 Chinook FRAM Base Period Update.
- Sublegal Encounter Rate Calculations. The sublegal encounter rate is the number of sublegal encounters of a given stock and age divided by the sublegal portion of the cohort for a given stock, age, fishery, and time step. The number of sublegal encounters for a given stock and age must be estimated, as CWT recoveries are not available for released fish. This update to the method modifies the algorithms by which these sublegal encounters are apportioned between stocks/ages.

FRAM documentation will be updated next year to reflect accepted changes to Chinook FRAM and the final data sets used for the new Chinook FRAM base period.