

MODEL EVALUATION WORKGROUP REPORT ON SALMON METHODOLOGY
REVIEW

The Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) offers comments on presentations covering the following agenda items from the 2015 Salmon Methodology Review:

D: New Chinook Fishery Regulation and Assessment Model (FRAM) Base Period
E: Documentation of the Chinook FRAM

The Chinook FRAM base period project was undertaken by several members of the MEW as well as other technical staff who are familiar with Chinook salmon stock and fishery data associated with FRAM. The presentations at the Salmon Methodology Review included a progress report and detailed technical analysis on proposed methods to update growth function parameters and to estimate stock- and age-specific sublegal encounters. In addition to extensive discussion on the two technical analyses, presentations and discussions included the challenges associated with filling data gaps, incorporating mark-selective fisheries in the cohort analysis, and estimating the portion of the landed catch associated with FRAM stocks. Very preliminary results from Chinook FRAM on stock composition in Council fisheries were presented. The base period work group members at the meeting appreciated the feedback from all of these discussions and found it helpful.

Substantial progress has been made on the base period project by the work group. The MEW endorses the methods proposed in the technical presentations. Further work and refinement is necessary before a final data set is ready for review and potential implementation. The work group will continue to develop the base period data set and document the project.

The MEW acknowledges that the FRAM documentation on the Council website covering all aspects of FRAM needs to be updated and the documentation for the base period project will be the first step in that direction.