



Washington  
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**FISH and  
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**NORTHWEST INDIAN  
FISHERIES COMMISSION**

NORTHWEST INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION  
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Agenda Item E.3  
Attachment 1  
March 2016

**RECEIVED**

January 19, 2016

**PFMC**

Dr. D. O. McIsaac  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Robert Turner  
NOAA Fisheries  
510 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Dr. McIsaac and Mr. Turner:

In November 2016 the Pacific Fishery Management Council received presentations on methodology changes to the salmon Fisheries Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM). The changes included new model algorithms for calculation of sublegal encounters and growth rates, as well as updating the base period of the model to more recent years. While the algorithm changes were completed and reviewed in time for Council approval in November, the base period update project was still ongoing.

State, Tribal and Federal staff have continued work on the base period update since November. While substantial progress has been made, work remains to be done prior to completion and implementation of the new model base period. Tasks remaining to finish include refinement of base period data for several stocks, completion of validation runs for past fisheries years, and quality assurance/quality control reviews of the results to ensure the updated model is functioning properly. This work cannot be completed in time for implementation of the FRAM changes for 2016 fishery planning, meaning that the previous version of FRAM will need to be used for an additional year.

The co-managers will continue to work towards completion of the FRAM base period update, with the intent of implementing the algorithm changes and the new base period for fishery planning in 2017.

Sincerely,

Mike Grayum  
Executive Director  
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

James Unsworth  
Director  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife