

METHODOLOGY REVIEW FINAL TOPIC SELECTION

Each year, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Salmon Technical Team (STT) complete 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, providing directions for handling any unresolved methodology problems prior to the formulation of salmon management alternatives 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 STT, SSC, and the Council, justifies a modification.

At its April 2017 meeting, the Council adopted the following priority candidate items for the 2017 Salmon Methodology Review.

1. Complete documentation on the development of the new Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) base period (Model Evaluation Workgroup, MEW).
2. Review and update the FRAM documentation and User Manual that is currently on the Council website (MEW).

The MEW acknowledges that "documentation" is not by itself a task to be covered during the salmon methodology review under the Council Operating Procedures. However, the MEW recommends this documentation task for the Methodology Review because of its importance in understanding how FRAM works. Source entities to deliver detailed reports for SSC review are included in brackets with each candidate item.

Additional topics for consideration may include boundary change proposals for implementation in 2018 and beyond. In April 2017, a change to the commercial salmon troll fishery boundary near the southern end of the Klamath Management Zone was proposed. The Council directed staff to work with various technical teams and advisory bodies to investigate any potential effects of such a change. Since then, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announced plans to adjust the commercial salmon troll fishery boundary between North and Central Oregon (NO/CO) areas. The STT and MEW have prepared brief statements regarding this topic.

All materials for review are to be received at the Council office at least two weeks prior to the review meeting of the SSC Salmon Subcommittee and STT. Specific dates for the 2017 salmon methodology review have not been identified at this time, but it is anticipated that the meeting will be in mid-October, either in Portland or via webinar.

Council Action:

1. **Determine if topics identified for review will be ready for the October Salmon Methodology Review meeting.**
2. **Set priorities for review of methodologies and/or conservation objective update proposals.**

Reference Materials:

None.

Agenda Order:

- F.1 Methodology Review Final Topic Selection
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Identify Priority Projects for Review in 2017

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