MODEL EVALUATION WORKGROUP REPORT ON THE
2019 FINAL METHODOLOGY REVIEW

The Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) offers comments on Fisheries Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) related topics as contained in the materials provided for the 2019 October Methodology Review Meeting.

The following two topics were presented at the Methodology Review with MEW as the lead:

Examine the data used to estimate impacts on Columbia River summer Chinook to determine whether data updates and/or a change in methodology are warranted

Angelika Hagen-Breaux (MEW Chair, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW]) presented results of investigations into FRAM exploitation rates of Upper Columbia River Summer Chinook. In the new FRAM base period, exploitation rates on this stock were considerably higher than independent estimates using genetic stock identification and coded wire tag methods, particularly in the central Oregon troll fishery.

Members of the base-period workgroup found three corrections, which are outlined in Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 2, that, if implemented in FRAM, would partially address this issue. These FRAM updates are data input-based, and may therefore not rise to the level of a formal methodology review. Contingent on stakeholder agreements, Upper Columbia River summer Chinook corrections could be implemented for the 2020 pre-season process.

FRAM User Manual

Dan Auerbach (WDFW) gave an overview of the new FRAM user manual. The manual is hosted online, and was conceived as an easily updatable "living document" that will be continuously updated as changes arise. The user manual contains many convenient features such as video tutorials, links to supporting documents, and change history tracking. This was a collaborative effort between the Tribal and State comanagers for which the MEW is grateful.

The FRAM Base Period Workgroup agrees to posting a link to the new user manual on the Council webpage in the Salmon Document Library under model documentation for FRAM. This link could replace the User Manual currently on the site which was last updated in 2007, and would act to fulfill the MEW task of reviewing and updating the FRAM User Manual.

PFMC
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