

WILLAPA BAY COHO FORECAST METHODOLOGY REVIEW – FINAL ACTION

Each year, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Salmon Technical Team (STT) complete a methodology review of any new or significantly modified methods used to estimate impacts of the Council's salmon management. The review is typically complete in time for the November Council meeting, so that all anticipated changes to be implemented in the coming season are resolved prior to the formulation of salmon management alternatives in March.

At the conclusion of the November 2019 meeting, the assignment to review the methodology used to develop abundance forecasts for Willapa Bay coho was incomplete. The Council scheduled a review of this topic at the March 2020 Council meeting, and instructed work to continue on this topic over the winter months.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) provided technical documents outlining the methods used to forecast the Willapa Bay coho to the SSC Salmon Subcommittee (SSCSC) and the STT prior to the January 22, 2020 methodology review meeting. In the documents provided, WDFW stated that the methodology used to forecast Willapa Bay coho will be new in 2020. The SSCSC requested additional data and documentation from WDFW deemed necessary for completing the methodology review. A webinar was scheduled for February 26, 2020 to review the new material provided and conduct the methodology review.

The results of the methodology review will be presented to the full SSC and the Council at the March Council meeting, where the Council is scheduled to approve any new methodologies. Supporting material will be provided as E.2, Supplemental Attachment 1.

Council Action:

- 1. Approve new and modified methodologies and conservation objectives, as appropriate.**
- 2. Provide guidance, as needed, for any unresolved methodology issues.**

Reference Materials:

- 1. Agenda Item E.2, Supplemental Attachment 1: Willapa Bay Coho - Supporting Documentation of Abundance Forecasting Approach.*
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.2 Willapa Bay Coho Forecast Methodology Review – Final Action Robin Ehlke
- Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - Public Comment
 - Council Action:** Adopt Final Forecasting Methods for Willapa Bay Coho