

SALMON 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 Pacific Fishery Management Council's (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 2021 meeting, the Council adopted the following priority candidate items for the 2021 Salmon Methodology Review.

- 1) Complete the documentation of the Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) program and the development of the new Chinook base period, including algorithms and User Manual.
- 2) Evaluate post-season metrics of FRAM model performance.
- 3) Provide documentation of the abundance forecast approach used for Willapa Bay natural coho.
- 4) Review Oregon Production Index Hatchery forecast.

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 2021 salmon methodology review have not been identified at this time, but it is anticipated that the meeting will be in mid-October 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 as needed.**

Reference Materials:

None.

Agenda Order:

F.2 Salmon Methodology Review—Final Topic Selection

Robin Ehlke

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Identify Priority Projects for Review in 2021

PFMC

08/11/21