

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON  
SALMON METHODOLOGY REVIEW – FINAL TOPIC SELECTION

At the April 2021 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, four topics were selected as candidates for Methodology Review:

1. Documentation of the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) program and the development of the new Chinook FRAM base period, including algorithms and User Manual (assigned to Model Evaluation Workgroup, [MEW]).
2. Evaluate post-season metrics of FRAM model performance (assigned to MEW).
3. Provide documentation of the abundance forecast approach used for Willapa Bay natural coho (assigned to Salmon Technical Team, STT).
4. Review Oregon Production Index, Hatchery (OPIH) forecast (assigned to STT).

With regard to items 1 and 2, the MEW Chair, Ms. Angelika Hagen-Breaux, provided the following updates:

Item 1. A web-based User Manual was completed, presented at the 2019 Methodology Review, and is available on the Council [website](#). Initial draft documentation of the FRAM program, including algorithms, will be ready in time for the Methodology Review in October 2021. However, documentation of the new Chinook FRAM base period will not be ready in time for the 2021 Methodology Review.

Item 2. The MEW developed a post-season FRAM validation exercise using exploitation rate analyses conducted by the Chinook Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission. This item will be ready for the 2021 Methodology Review.

The STT has been in contact with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) regarding progress on Methodology Review items 3 and 4.

Item 3. WDFW has indicated that the documentation of a new Willapa Bay natural coho forecast methodology will be completed in time for the 2021 Methodology Review.

Item 4. ODFW has indicated that documentation of the OPIH forecasts will be completed in time for the 2021 Methodology Review.

The STT also discussed 2021 Methodology Review topics with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) at their meeting on September 8, 2021. Aside from the four Methodology Review topics previously described, the SSC brought forward additional topics that could be discussed at the October 2021 Methodology Review meeting. These included (1) a review of documents on which the current Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) conservation objective is based, (2) defining the term “major stocks” that appears in the Salmon Fishery Management Plan, (3) establishment of a database memorializing changes in, and review of, stock abundance forecast methodologies, and (4) establishment of a process for conservation objective review.

The STT would like to be involved in discussions of the four additional topics raised by the SSC should the Council decide to add those topics to the Methodology Review agenda. With regard to review of the SRFC conservation objective, the STT agrees that this topic is a priority; however, current workload issues may require this topic to be revisited at a later time. The STT has provided a statement to the Council under Agenda Item E.7. outlining their concerns on workload issues.

PFMC  
09/10/21