

SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON  
METHODOLOGY REVIEW PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) met with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) to discuss potential topics for Methodology Review in 2022. Following these discussions, the STT identified four topics as candidates for review by the STT and the Salmon Subcommittee of the SSC in October 2022, with the lead entity in parentheses and potential contributing agencies in brackets.

- 1) Technical review of the updates associated with ‘Round 7.1.1’ of the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) base period as they relate to modeled abundances of Chinook salmon stocks used in determining the southern resident killer whale (SRKW) Chinook salmon abundance threshold (MEW, STT), [WDFW, NWIFC, NMFS].
- 2) Technical review of the updates to Chinook salmon ocean distribution models that derive from two publications (Shelton et al. 2019, 2021) and are used to apportion the modeled abundance of Chinook salmon stocks among ocean regions (SSC), [NWFSC, SWFSC].
- 3) Discussion of whether the Sacramento Index forecast should be expressed as a mean or median (STT, SSC).
- 4) Review of the basis behind the Sacramento River Fall Chinook conservation objective (SSC), [CDFW, NMFS].

For items 1 and 2, the STT envisions there being a STT/SSC technical review of these components of the SRKW abundance threshold, focused on summarizing changes in the FRAM base period and stock distribution estimates, as outlined in the salmon Fishery Management Plan. While these technical reviews are not necessarily Methodology Review topics, conducting these reviews in conjunction with the Methodology Review meeting would be convenient and efficient.

Lastly, since meeting with the SSC to discuss preliminary topic selection for 2022 Salmon Methodology Review, the STT has become aware of a recent tendency of the Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM) effort forecasting module to over-predict effort in certain fishery/month strata. Addressing this issue is a very high priority for the STT given that the effort forecast performance deficiencies affect key stocks that drive fishery planning. Following the conclusion of the April Council meeting, the STT will further evaluate forecast performance and consider ways to improve the accuracy of effort projections produced by the KOHM. While it is currently unclear whether this work would be appropriate for Methodology Review, the STT wanted to flag this topic for Council consideration under this agenda item. An alternative path could be to address the effort forecasts through means that do not require a Methodology Review, such as updates to existing data sets or data ranges, as described under Council Operating Procedure (COP) 15. The STT will develop a plan and timeline for addressing the issue and report to the Council in June under Workload Planning, when there would be a more complete picture of the scope of the work.