

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FINAL WEST COAST REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR DETERMINING THE BEST
SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received an update presentation on Developing a Regional Best Scientific Information Available (BSIA) Framework from Dr. Jim Hastie of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) and Ms. Sarah Shoffler of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) and discussed the latest version of the documents. The presentation and documents provided accurately describe the existing BSIA process for annual catch specifications and status determinations.

The SSC thanks NMFS for their attention to previous suggestions, which have been addressed. The SSC recommends the following clarifications before the BSIA Framework is finalized. The documentation of the arbitration process has been expanded. However, the SSC notes that the process should be clearly stated to be a public process. The SSC also noted three inconsistencies in the level of detail represented in the workbook across the fishery management plans (FMPs): 1) the level of detail in description of the involvement of advisory bodies differs between coastal pelagic species (CPS) and groundfish, 2) a timeline is included for salmon but not for other FMPs, and 3) review of rebuilding analyses is described for groundfish and CPS, but not for salmon.

The SSC recognizes several needs for future work after the BSIA Framework is finalized. Further documentation is needed of the salmon review process. Questions were previously raised by the SSC regarding the review and updating of the reference points used in salmon status determinations and about the process for initiating reviews of the processes and models providing inputs to annual salmon management, such as the forecasts used to inform catch specifications. Also, the current modeling and review process differs by salmon species and these differences should be further described. Moreover, the SSC recommends that the Pacific Fishery Management Council explore opportunities for strengthening review processes across all FMPs, including external review.

PFMC
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