

FINAL METHODOLOGY REVIEW

Each year as needed, consistent with Pacific Fishery Council (Council) Operating Procedure (COP) 15, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Salmon Technical Team (STT) complete a methodology review to help assure that any new or significantly modified methods use the best available science to estimate impacts of the Council's salmon management. The methodology review is also used as a forum to review updated stock conservation objective proposals. The review is in preparation for the Council's adoption at the November meeting of all anticipated methodology and conservation objective changes to be implemented in the coming season, or in certain limited cases, of providing directions for handling any unresolved methodology problems prior to the formulation of salmon management alternatives in 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.

At its September 2022 meeting, the Council approved four items for this year's methodology review. Although technically none of the topics are an actual change in methodology, the three-meeting cycle process provided by the methodology review has been an efficient tool to thoroughly assess new information and concepts that may affect ocean salmon fishery management.

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
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.
3. Discussion of whether the Sacramento Index forecast should be expressed as a mean or median.
4. Review of the basis behind the Sacramento River Fall Chinook conservation objective.
5. Fisheries Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) technical detail documentation.

Technical documents related to each topic of review were submitted to the SSC Salmon Subcommittee and the STT prior to the methodology review meeting (Agenda Item D.2, Attachments 1).

The methodology review meeting of the SSC Salmon Subcommittee and the STT was held on October 12-13, 2022, via webinar. The results of the methodology review will be presented to the full SSC and the Council at the November Council meeting, where the Council may approve any new methodologies or warranted changes based on the review.

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 D.2, Attachment 1: Methodology Review Materials (*Electronic only*).
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

D.2 Final Methodology Review

Robin Ehlke

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Methodology Changes for 2023 and Beyond

PFMC

10/09/22