

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
METHODOLOGY REVIEW PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met with members of the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) to discuss potential topics to be reviewed by the SSC Salmon Subcommittee (SSCSS) in fall 2023. The SSC discussed potential topics for SSCSS review [responsible entities are in brackets]:

1. Re-evaluate use of survival covariates in the Sacramento River winter Chinook forecasting approach given new data now available covering a wider range of environmental conditions [STT].
2. Review methods used to model South of Falcon fisheries in Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) [MEW].
3. Evaluate new methods to forecast the Oregon Production Index for Coho [Oregon Production Index Technical Team].
4. Revisit the Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC) abundance forecasting approach [STT].

The MEW discussed their efforts to continue documenting how the FRAM Chinook base period calibration was done. The SSC notes that documenting models used in public resource management is necessary and should follow best practices and be repeatable by other users. The SSC further notes it is important to quantify the uncertainties in the FRAM outputs.

The SSC reiterates its suggestion to establish a formal process that outlines how and when salmon reference points and conservation objectives are reviewed and updated (see [Agenda Item D.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#) from April 2022 and the SSC Salmon Subcommittee report appended to the June 2021 [Agenda Item C.10.a Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)). Conservation objectives and reference points (e.g., S_{MSY} and F_{MSY}) for SRFC and multiple Washington Coastal Fall Chinook were derived from publications produced in 1984 and do not incorporate any information on run sizes, productivity, or other available biological parameters from the last 40 years. The SSC notes that the values for reference points are routinely updated as a part of the Coastal Pelagic Species and groundfish stock assessment processes, and populations with assessments that do not incorporate recent data are judged to have increased uncertainty.