

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
SALMON METHODOLOGY REVIEW—FINAL TOPIC SELECTION

Michael O’Farrell from the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and Jon Carey from the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on proposed topics for the 2023 Salmon Methodology Review scheduled for October 11-12, 2023. The topics that were adopted for potential review at the April 2023 Council meeting were:

1. Consider technical modifications to the Sacramento River winter Chinook abundance forecast by examining whether an egg-to-fry covariate can improve forecast performance (assigned to National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center)
2. Review and consider improvements to methods used to model South of Falcon fisheries in the Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (assigned to MEW)
3. Explore alternative approaches for the Oregon Production Index Hatchery coho forecast (assigned to Oregon Production Index Technical Team)
4. Explore alternative forecast approaches for the Sacramento Index (assigned to STT)
5. Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) Documentation (assigned to MEW)

Michael O’Farrell and Jon Carey reported that topics 1, 2, and 3 will be ready for review in October. Topic 4 - alternative forecast approaches for the Sacramento Index will not be ready for review, however the SSC recommends that this topic be reviewed in 2024. There is new FRAM documentation content (Topic 5), however the SSC views this as an informational report on progress made this year and does not require a rigorous review.

Materials submitted for review should be technically sound, comprehensive, clearly documented, and identified by the author(s). Materials to be reviewed should be submitted by September 25, 2023. If this deadline cannot be met, it is the responsibility of the author(s) to contact Marlene A. Bellman, Robin Ehlke, the SSC Salmon Subcommittee Chair, and the STT Chair prior to the deadline, so arrangements can be made in a timely and cost-effective manner. The SSC plans to review reports on these topics at the November 2023 Council meeting.

In the event of a Federal government shutdown, it may be difficult to complete the methodology review prior to the November Council meeting. The SSC does not recommend attempting to hold a methodology review without Federal employees present. If the review cannot be held prior to the November Council meeting, it may not be possible to incorporate any methodology changes for use in the 2024 salmon management cycle.