

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
PACIFIC SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 24 SOUTHERN  
RESIDENT KILLER WHALE CHINOOK THRESHOLD CLARIFICATIONS

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the proposed administrative amendment to the Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Section 6.6.8 - Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Management Measures.

The SSC agrees that the description of how the threshold is calculated (the first four sentences in the second paragraph of the proposed amendment) is complete and reproducible and is an improvement over the previous language.

The SSC recommends that the last two sentences of the second paragraph, which begin with “These particular years were chosen because...” be deleted and replaced with a link to relevant SRKW Work Group Reports ([PFMC 2020](#), as cited in Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1, as well as November 2020 Agenda Item F.2.a, Workgroup Report 1). The justification for the threshold is complex and difficult to adequately characterize in a few sentences.

The SSC identifies the need for a minor change to the language in the third paragraph: “Updates to the FRAM model will be reported by...” should be changed to “Updates to the FRAM will be reported by...”

The SSC highlights a potential mismatch in the recommended timeline for finalizing the threshold value, which may have negative consequences in some years. The proposed language recommends that recalculated threshold values be ready for Pacific Fishery Management Council consideration at the November meeting. However, co-managers continue to work on Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) improvements for harvest management until January or later. If changes are made to FRAM and not incorporated into the threshold calculation, the pre-season FRAM output will not be in the same currency as the threshold. This could lead to the threshold either not fulfilling the objective of leaving prey for SRKWs or unnecessarily constraining fisheries.

PFMC  
09/09/23