SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN INITIATIVE 4:
GROUNDFISH AND SALMON RISK TABLES – PROGRESS REVIEW

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) was briefed by Correigh Greene on the use of a Risk Tables/Matrix Approach for Sacramento River Fall Chinook (SRFC). The SAS also reviewed the Salmon Technical Team (STT) statement on this agenda item.

The SAS understands that as part of developing the risk table methodology for groundfish, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) agreed that the application could be broadened to include select salmon stocks as described in the Habitat Committee Report in March 2024. The Habitat Committee suggested that the stoplight tables for Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC) and SRFC could be refined into numerical risk tables.

The Council currently has two salmon workgroups that are focused on improving management and conservation of the California Chinook stocks. Additionally, there are inseason management protocols newly adopted to help protect California Coastal Chinook that have yet to be implemented due to the ocean salmon fishery closures off the California coast. The work underway by the workgroups and the impacts of inseason management may help guide how to best approach the topic of integrating environmental variables into salmon management, so waiting until these processes are complete seems to be a reasonable approach.

SAS recommendation: No action on adopting a workplan salmon risk tables at this time.

The SAS proposes the Council instead continues to focus on the groundfish risk tables and seeing how well they may fit in the management process, then decide if further developing risk tables for salmon may be appropriate. This will provide a more stepwise approach to the concept. This seems more efficient given the other activities underway in the salmon arena and would provide more time to allow other potential concepts to come to light. It also is not clear to the SAS at this point what the objective of using risk tables in salmon management would be or what salmon conservation or management problem they would solve.

PFMC
09/19/24