

## FINAL METHODOLOGY REVIEW RESULTS AND PROPOSED COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE (COP) 15 UPDATES

The Salmon Methodology Review is guided by [Council Operating Procedure \(COP\) 15](#) and is a three-step annual process intended to help clarify the technical basis for Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) salmon management actions. The first step of the review process begins in April with a list of candidate topics identified. The second step occurs at the September meeting, where the Council is informed of the topics that will be ready for review in October and notified of any assistance needed from management entities to accomplish the review. During the third step, which occurs at the November meeting after the methodology review is conducted, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Salmon Technical Team (STT) provide the results of the review and any recommendations for change. Changes adopted by the Council in November may be implemented in the coming season or the Council may provide guidance for handling any unresolved methodology issues. 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 April 2024 meeting, the Council did not identify any topics for the 2024 Salmon Methodology Review. However, at its September 2024 meeting, the Council received a proposal from the ad-hoc Sacramento River Fall Chinook (SRFC) Workgroup for three proposed topics and moved two forward for review:

1. Cohort Reconstruction for Sacramento River Fall Chinook salmon and Comparison with the Sacramento Index (SI) (Attachment 1)
2. Updated  $F_{MSY}$  Proxy and  $S_{MSY}/S_{MP}$  Ratio (Attachment 2).

The Council did not move the third proposed topic (Uncertainty Metrics and Buffering Approaches for SRFC Forecasts) forward for review in 2024, but noted this topic may be suitable for Methodology Review in a future year.

The [2024 Salmon Methodology Review meeting](#) of the SSC Salmon Subcommittee and the STT was held online on October 4, 2024. The results of the methodology review will be presented to the full SSC and recommendations provided to the Council at the November Council meeting, where the Council may approve any new methodologies based on the review.

In addition, Council staff are proposing administrative updates to COP 15 that reflect the current process for conducting salmon methodology reviews and clarify roles and responsibilities (Attachment 3). Staff have provided redline edits to the current version of COP 15 for the Council to consider and approve for public review. The Council is scheduled to take final action on COP 15 updates in March 2025.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Approve the use of methodologies recommended from the Salmon Methodology Review, as appropriate, for use beginning in 2025.**

2. Provide guidance, as needed, for any unresolved methodology issues.
3. Consider and approve, for public review, administrative updates to COP 15.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1: Cohort Reconstruction for Sacramento River Fall Chinook salmon and Comparison with the Sacramento Index (SI) (*Electronic only*).
2. Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 2: Updated  $F_{MSY}$  Proxy and  $S_{MSY}/S_{MP}$  Ratio (*Electronic only*).
3. Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 3: Council Operating Procedure 15 with Redline Edits.
4. Agenda Item, F.2.a, Tribal Report 1.
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.2 Final Methodology Review Results and Proposed Council Operating Procedure (COP) 15 Updates Angela Forristall
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Methodology Results for 2025 and Beyond, as Needed; Adopt Proposed Updates to COP 15 for Public Review

PFMC  
10/21/24