

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
PROPOSED COUNCIL OPERATION PROCEDURE (COP) 15 UPDATES

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed a draft revision of Council Operating Procedure (COP) 15 for Salmon Estimation Methodology Updates and Reviews (Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 3), presented by Angela Forristall (Council staff). This revision is intended to reflect the current process for conducting salmon methodology reviews and clarify roles and responsibilities. The Council is scheduled to take final action on COP 15 updates during its March 2025 meeting. The SSC appreciates the efforts and offers the following comments.

- The SSC recommends a single COP for methodology reviews from all Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) for consistency among the FMPs and with National Standard 2. Separate Terms of Reference (TOR) for methodology reviews can be codified for each FMP.
- If the Council or Council staff chooses not to combine all methodology reviews into one methodology review COP or if a salmon TOR is needed, the SSC should work with the Salmon Technical Team (STT) to accurately characterize the current process to develop a TOR or update the current COP 15.
- The roles and responsibilities of the SSC, SSC Salmon Subcommittee, STT, and Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW) are not clearly defined in the current or proposed COP 15 revision. The STT and MEW are not classified as review bodies in the current [COP 3 for Plan, Technical, and Management Teams](#), though they are often tasked to produce methodologies for SSC review. There should be a clear description of the roles and responsibilities for Council bodies in any future salmon methodology COP or TOR, as is the case for [groundfish and CPS methodology review TORs](#).
- A review of the implementation of a topic found to be Best Scientific Information Available (BSIA) by the SSC does not need to be conducted at the same time as the scientific review nor does review of a methodology topic need to be predicated on planned use in the next preseason cycle. A methodology determined to be BSIA may be challenging to implement, thus identifying a specific timeline for implementation in the COP may not be feasible.
- Some terms used in the COP need to be defined more clearly. As pointed out in June 2021 ([Agenda Item C.10.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#)), the COP should clarify the definition of “major stocks.” The current COP states “Examples of issues that could merit a full methodology review include new model algorithms, methods for incorporating base data into models, forecasting methods for major PFMC stocks,” but does not define “major.” As another example, the terms “scientific”, “technical”, and “analytical” are used to distinguish different types of work without clearly defining these terms.

The SSC is willing to work with the Salmon Technical Team (STT) and Council staff to contribute to developing a single methodology review COP and a salmon methodology TOR or update the current COP 15, at the Council's direction.

PFMC

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