

METHODOLOGY REVIEW PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION

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:

1. At the April Council meeting, the Council reviews the list of candidate topics identified and adopts preliminary topics.
2. At the September Council meeting, 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 complete review materials.
3. At the November Council 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 are typically implemented in the coming season, or the Council may provide guidance for handling any unresolved methodology issues, if necessary. During each March meeting, the STT will report on the status of all current estimation procedures and models used in analyzing the management options and identify any problems or potential changes to model inputs or parameters that could occur prior to completion of the annual preseason management process in April.

In March 2025, the Council received a report from Washington and Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW and ODFW) ([Agenda Item E.2.a](#)) that outlined concerns regarding the 2025 Oregon Production Index Hatchery (OPIH) forecast methodology and results, particularly regarding the Pacific Decadal Oscillation and its divergence from sea-surface temperature trends, as well as unusual forecasted ratios of adult returns to jack returns. Analysts at WDFW and ODFW explored potential modifications to improve forecast accuracy and suggested adopting exponential decaying weights for a better fit, which significantly reduced forecast errors and addresses the identified concerns. The Council approved the modified forecast methodology for use in 2025 only and noted that further exploration of model flexibility in the OPIH forecast may be warranted during this year's Salmon Methodology Review.

At the November 2024 Council meeting, the Council reviewed proposed edits to COP 15 that intended to clarify and help facilitate the process for the Salmon Methodology Review. The Council considered the potential edits and input from the STT and SSC. The Council did not adopt any changes at that time, and requested another review of the proposed modifications at a future meeting, taking into consideration the feedback in the STT's November 2024 report and any additional report provided by the SSC in September 2025 (see [November 2024 Decision Summary Document](#)).

Council Task:

1. Provide guidance to the SSC and STT regarding potential topics and priorities for methodologies to be reviewed in 2025.
2. Request relevant agencies develop and provide needed materials, as appropriate.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item, D.4.a, SRWG Report 1.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- D.4 Methodology Review Preliminary Topic Selection Angela Forristall
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Preliminary Topics for 2025 Methodology Reviews

PFMC
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