

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON REVIEW OF 2024  
FISHERIES AND SUMMARY OF 2025 STOCK FORECASTS

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed the Review of 2024 Ocean Salmon Fisheries (Supplemental Attachment 2) and Preseason Report I for 2025 (Supplemental Attachment 3). The SSC appreciates the work of the Salmon Technical Team (STT) in compiling the reports and participating in a joint discussion. The SSC was provided with a draft of the Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRFC), Klamath River fall Chinook (KRFC), and Willapa Bay natural Coho forecasts only three business days ahead of the SSC meeting. The SSC had only one business day to review the Preseason Report I, preventing comprehensive review.

The Council sets annual catch limits (ACLs) for SRFC, the indicator stock for the Central Valley fall Chinook complex, KRFC, the indicator stock for the Southern Oregon/Northern California Chinook complex, and Willapa Bay natural Coho. Preseason Report I provides the ACLs for these stocks (Table V-5). The SSC found the calculations of the three acceptable biological catches (ABCs) and corresponding ACLs correct based on the forecasts for all three stocks. The SRFC forecast model (Figure II-4) shows a concerning pattern in residuals, with recent returns tending to be lower than forecasts. Alternate forecast methodologies or data ranges should be explored.

KRFC, for which a rebuilding plan was completed during 2019, continues to meet the criteria for overfished status. The Queets River spring/summer Chinook stock was declared overfished in 2023, a rebuilding plan was adopted in November of 2024, and the stock now meets the criteria for “not overfished-rebuilding” status. No Chinook or Coho stocks were determined to be subject to overfishing, although most exploitation rates were only available through 2022.

The SSC strongly recommends that salmon forecasts used in the PFMC process include standardized measures of uncertainty and that detailed methodologies producing salmon forecasts be made available. The SSC notes that a published paper by Satterthwaite and Shelton ([2023](#)) presented an approach for quantifying bias and uncertainty in forecasts for several PFMC-managed salmon stocks. The approach described in that paper has the potential to address evaluation of and possible revisions to forecasts. The SSC recommends exploring this and/or other frameworks for systematically using the forecast performance information in Preseason Report I to identify forecasts that the STT or agencies may want to focus on for possible improvement.