

## SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) has discussed the intersection between the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC or Council) salmon [schedule and process](#) and workload capacity. The discussion focused on assessment of the team's capacity to take on additional technical work during pre- and post- salmon season periods.

As part of the preseason salmon process, the STT works under short deadlines to assemble and publish the Review of Ocean Salmon Fisheries document and the three Preseason reports (Pre-I, Pre-II, and Pre-III). Each report requires considerable coordination between regional state, Federal, and Tribal technical teams to complete. Beginning in December, team members coordinate with state and Tribal managers to gather post-season data to complete the Review document, and also coordinate with regional state and Tribal biologists to assemble salmon stock forecasts needed to complete Pre-I prior to the Council meeting in March.

At the March and April Council meetings, the STT works closely with the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) and coordinates with co-manager technical teams to produce model runs focused on Council guidance for ocean salmon fisheries. When the STT receives Council guidance for fishery analysis, the modeling and analysis take at minimum six hours. These tasks often result in consecutive 18-hour workdays. In addition, the Pre-II and Pre-III reports are primarily assembled at these Council meetings and completed in the weeks following the meeting.

In short, the STT does not have the capacity to take on additional work during the preseason process. Because of the pace and workload, it is difficult to give proper attention to any salmon or other agenda items outside of the preseason process and Methodology Review topics. The STT appreciates the Council trying to limit the number of salmon items to just the preseason salmon process and Methodology Review topics during March and April.

Outside of the Council's salmon preseason process, STT workload can scale significantly depending on the number of topics or content under review for the Methodology Review in the fall. Additionally, STT members have been increasingly engaged in ad-hoc Workgroups, and other salmon-related tasks including risk tables, Council Operating Procedures, Research & Data needs, etc. While these topics may serve an important role in salmon management, the workload associated with these tasks reduces our capacity to proactively focus on developing or improving harvest models, abundance forecasts, and management tools used for salmon assessment.

While the STT remains fully dedicated to supporting the Council's salmon process, the team wants to highlight the significant challenges it already faces in balancing core responsibilities as the Council considers additional analyses, reviews, development of new tools, or other salmon management items that may further increase the team's workload.