

## METHODOLOGY REVIEW — FINAL 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.

At its April 2025 meeting, the Sacramento River fall Chinook Work Group (SRWG) proposed three items for methodology review ([D.4.a, SRWG Report 1](#)). The Council considered reports from the SSC, STT, and Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) ([D.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#), [D.4.a, Supplemental STT Report 1](#), and [D.4.a, Supplemental SAS Report 1](#)) and preliminarily selected three topics for the 2025 Salmon Methodology Review:

1. The Oregon Production Index Hatchery (OPIH) forecast methodology, including the index exponential-decay-weighting approach adopted for use in 2025 and additional aspects of the OPIH forecast methodology, such as breaking the forecast into component stocks, as time and staffing allows;
2. Proposed SRWG Topic 1: Derivation of natural-area  $S_{MSY}$  for Sacramento River fall Chinook;
3. Proposed SRWG Topic 3: Methods for deriving a total (natural areas plus hatchery) escapement objective based on consideration of natural production and hatchery needs.

The Council also tasked Council staff to develop a roadmap outlining the appropriate steps and sequence for a comprehensive review of the SRWG's recommendations for evaluating the Sacramento River fall Chinook reference points, the conservation objective, and the harvest control rule. This document is included in the 2025 September Council meeting materials as Informational Report 1.

All salmon methodology review materials are due at least two weeks prior to the October meeting date and made available to the SSC Salmon Subcommittee and STT. The 2025 Salmon Methodology Review will be held online and is scheduled for October 9 and 10. Any results from the Salmon Methodology Review will be provided to the Council in November.

**Council Action:**

- 1. Based on the statements and information received, determine the readiness of the proposed topics, and any additional topics, if applicable, for the October Salmon Methodology Review meeting.**
- 2. Provide guidance to the SSC regarding topics and priorities for methodologies to be reviewed in 2025.**
- 3. Request relevant agencies develop and provide needed materials to the Council office at least two weeks prior to the review, as appropriate.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.1.a: Sacramento River Fall Chinook Work Group Report 1.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

**Agenda Order:**

- F.1 Methodology Review — Final Topic Selection Angela Forristall
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Identify Topics for Review in 2025

PFMC  
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