

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
METHODOLOGY REVIEW—FINAL TOPIC SELECTION

Will Satterthwaite (SWFSC, Sacramento River Fall Chinook [SRFC] Ad-Hoc Workgroup [SRWG] Chair) briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on two preliminary topics that the SRWG recommended and that were adopted by the Council as preliminary review topics in April. Michael O’Farrell (SWFSC, Salmon Technical Team [STT] Chair) indicated the STT supports review of these two topics. Cassandra Leeman (ODFW/STT) briefed the SSC on another preliminary topic adopted by the Council and an additional topic requested by ODFW. After discussion, the SSC added a fifth topic, which was recommended by the SSC for review in April 2025 and September 2024. The SSC recommends that all five topics be reviewed on October 9-10, 2025, during the scheduled Salmon Methodology Review meeting. Materials should be available to the SSC Salmon Subcommittee for review no later than September 25. The SSC finds two days of meeting time adequate for review of these topics. The SSC requires that the analysts be available to present and answer questions to conduct an adequate review. The items the SSC recommends for review and their proponents are:

1. Derivation of natural-area S_{MSY} for Sacramento River fall Chinook (SRWG); all four methods developed should be considered including the preferred method;
2. Methods for deriving a total (natural areas plus hatchery) escapement objective based on consideration of natural production and hatchery needs (SRWG);
3. The Oregon Production Index Hatchery (OPIH) forecast methodology, including the index exponential-decay-weighting approach adopted for use in 2025 (ODFW/WDFW);
4. Proposed changes to the Oregon Coast Natural coho marine survival index (ODFW); and,
5. Methods for evaluating consequences of changes in allowable exploitation rates, evaluating forecast performance, and potentially adjusting forecasts for bias and/or uncertainty buffers (SSC).

One or two of these items (topic 3 and possibly topic 4) could be characterized simply as data changes and therefore, under COP 15, a formal Methodology Review may not be necessary. However, some data changes are consequential enough to lead to changes to the methodology, and there may be an algorithm change associated with one variant under consideration for topic 4, which should trigger a review.

For topic 5, this peer-reviewed and published paper has been available for two years and relates to multiple topics in salmon management in the PFMC process. The paper was first proposed by the SRWG for application to specific tasks surrounding SRFC. Additionally, the SSC highlights the need for a consistent and objective way of assessing salmon forecast performance across stocks. Review of this paper during this year’s Salmon Methodology Review would allow the SSC to make informed and timely decisions on best scientific information available, especially during the

pre-season when process delays have large consequences. Review would also allow analysts working on salmon topics (such as the SRWG) to know whether the SSC supports or can identify improvements to methods before substantial effort is expended incorporating them in a holistic analysis. The SSC also notes that prolonged delays in reviewing available science can mean that analysts move on to other jobs and that scheduling reviews can be more difficult.

PPMC

9/21/25