

COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE

Salmon Estimation Methodology Updates and Review

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Approved by Council: 07/10/85

Revised: 11/19/87, 03/09/89, 04/06/95, 06/23/97, 03/11/05; **3/14/08**

PURPOSE

To establish procedures for the review and Council approval of salmon estimation methodologies, utilizing the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Salmon Technical Team (STT), and the Model Evaluation Workgroup (MEW). The review of current and proposed methodologies for abundance and harvest projection, exempted fishing permits (EFPs), and conservation objectives is intended to help clarify the technical basis for the Council's management actions. The procedure is intended to provide peer review of the technical estimation and modeling procedures, to ensure the best and most objective technical analyses possible, to minimize confusion during the preseason option development process, and to resolve disputes over methodology.

OBJECTIVES AND DUTIES

During the March and April meetings or at other appropriate times, the SSC, in conjunction with the STT and MEW, will identify methodology issues which need documentation and/or merit a full review. The SSC is responsible for reviewing new or changed methodology as opposed to specific applications of the methodology. Examples of issues that could merit a full review include new model algorithms, methods for incorporating base data into models, forecasting methods for major PFMC stocks, experimental design of proposed experimental fisheries, and technical changes to stock complexes or conservation objectives. Examples of issues that do not merit full review include updating existing data sets in models, changing coded-wire-tag representation for modeled stocks, adding new stocks to models, and changing data ranges used to estimate parameters in models. Issues in this latter category will be reviewed within the MEW or STT, and can be implemented without formal review by the SSC and approval of the Council; provided both the Council and SSC receive updates on such changes; however, if warranted, the Council may require additional review by the SSC.

At the September meeting the SSC will inform the Council of the methodologies ready for review and recommend a review schedule. The SSC also will notify the Council of assistance needed from management entities and the MEW to accomplish the review.

The appropriate management entities, either themselves or with assistance from the MEW, are expected to provide background information on procedures and data bases for methodologies undergoing full review, as well as early notification and documentation of anticipated changes in procedures for methodologies not under full review in a particular year. Management entities, who submit proposals for the Methodology Review, are responsible for ensuring that materials they provide to the SSC and Council are technically sound, clearly documented, and identified by author. Documents should receive internal entity review before being sent to the Council. To provide adequate review time for the SSC, materials must be received in the Council office at least two weeks before scheduled review meetings.

The SSC and STT will report to the Council at the November meeting on the results of these reviews and provide recommendations for all proposed methodology changes. During the November meeting, the Council will adopt all proposed changes to be implemented in the coming season or will provide directions for handling any unresolved methodology problems.

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 pre-season management process in April.