

## SALMON TECHNICAL TEAM REPORT ON METHODOLOGY REVIEW PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) discussed potential topics for Methodology Review in 2025 and items proposed by the Sacramento River fall Chinook Workgroup (SRWG). The STT thanks Dr. Will Satterthwaite for presenting the three workgroup items. The STT met with the Scientific and Statistical Committee and gave an overview of the STT discussions.

In March 2025 the Council adopted a revised Oregon Production Index hatchery (OPIH) coho forecast methodology exclusively for use in 2025 that used an exponential-decay-weighting approach as described in a [Joint State report](#) provided by the Washington and Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife. The Joint State report also suggests that further investigation of modifications to the OPIH forecast methodology may occur. The STT supports the exponential-decay-weighting approach as a candidate item for the 2025 Methodology Review, understanding that additional topics may be proposed when final topic selection occurs at the September Council meeting.

Regarding the items identified by the SRWG, the STT notes components of the three potential Methodology Review topics proposed have already been published in the peer-reviewed literature. The STT acknowledges the importance for the SRWG to continue their progress and supports bringing forward the first ( $S_{MSY}$ ) and third (escapement objective) proposed topics for methodology review. Regarding the second proposed topic by the SRWG, the STT reiterates the comments made in [Agenda Item E.2.a, Supplemental STT Report 1](#) at the September 2024 Council meeting.

The STT also discussed a few other potential topics but concluded that those topics were either not ready at this time or did not meet the criteria for a full Methodology Review. For example, one topic was associated with exploring changes to the data ranges used to forecast abundance of Sacramento River fall Chinook and Klamath River fall Chinook but given that Council Operating Procedure 15 explicitly states “Examples of issues that do not merit full review include changing data ranges used to estimate parameters in models”, this topic would not warrant a Methodology Review.

In summary, the STT recommends the following three candidate items for preliminary topic selection and notes the lead entity:

- 1. OPIH forecast using the exponential-decay-weighting approach (OPITT)**
- 2. Derivation of natural-area  $S_{MSY}$  for Sacramento River Fall Chinook (SRWG).**
- 3. Methods for deriving a total (natural areas plus hatchery) escapement objective based on consideration of natural production and hatchery needs (SRWG).**