

Salmon Population Structure Breakout Group Discussion. Wed morning session.

Discussion leaders: Pete Lawson, Eli Holmes

What are the decisions that managers must make?

Specific Examples:

Local scale

Regional scale

Long term comprehensive plans

Immediate land/water use issues

We agreed that every decision is multifaceted and a compromise, and that often the goals are unknown

What are the current decision support systems and what are their weaknesses?

Tools that were designed under past visions of salmon biology

Given potential limitations to the modeling process, what kind of predictive/informative tools would be useful?

Rules of Thumb?

Explicitly stated assumptions, decision network, expert system like model

Couple the application of Rules of Thumb to their development process

We thought about what the perfect model would look like and what it could do, then decided that that was unrealistic

Given a metapopulation/ESU view of salmon

Can we develop a model that gives an ESU response in contrast to a collection of populations/responses?

How long would it take to do so?

What should managers use in the meantime?

Can we quickly come up with 'rules of thumb'?

What is the time frame of 'quickly'?

Is this in VSP?

The output of CRI?

Some general questions that pertain to population structure that are faced by managers and for which it would be nice to have a much better handle on:

How important is the spatial relationship between habitat areas or populations?

Local scales

Regional scales

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What happens if we add/remove (degrade/restore) specific populations?

What happens if we make/break specific links between populations?

Bottom line: attendees of workshop need (or perhaps had hoped to hear) rules for guiding management decisions given the structure of salmon populations.

Instead we all learned that the 'state of the art' salmon metapopulation concept is still very general, very simplified, and not yet up to the task..