



# NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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## Action Memo

**File Number:**ID 15-004

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**Agenda Date**2/2/2015

**Agenda Number:**D5

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**Dan Hull, Chairman**  
**Chris Oliver, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT:**  
Research Priorities (SSC only)

**ESTIMATED TIME:**  
1.5 hours

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  
Review progress on revisions to the research priority process.

### BACKGROUND

In June 2012, the SSC identified the need for a more orderly and coherent process for submitting and prioritizing research proposals. The SSC recommended that the status of a given priority as an immediate concern or an ongoing need, as well as its relative rank among other priorities (e.g., high, medium, low) be clearly communicated. The SSC further suggested that the Council develop a database for organizing and tracking research priorities.

With the assistance of the PSMFC, staff developed a web-based application for organizing and tracking research priorities. The application is publically available ([<https://research.psmfc.org/>](https://research.psmfc.org/)) and allows users to sort and summarize priorities by Plan Team (FMP), Council Action (Subject), Ecosystem Area, Council Priority, and Research Status (Progress). The web application has recently been modified (January 2015) so that any user can generate reports that track changes to priorities over a timeframe of their interest.

As a further consequence of the 2012 initiative, the Research Priorities Subgroup of the Joint Plan Teams was tasked with improving definitions and examples for research priority criteria. During this ongoing phase of the project, the subgroup has met several times and offered feedback to the SSC. Most recently the subgroup met on January 26, 2015 to provide input on the suite of categories currently recommended by the SSC, including the SSC's definitions and examples for those categories which are attached. The Subgroup's feedback to the SSC is also attached. At this meeting, the SSC will review progress to date.