

NPFMC RESEARCH PRIORITY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

CRITICAL ONGOING MONITORING: Information provided by monitoring activities in this category (1) provide an essential management function; (2) cannot likely be acquired through other means; or (3) are required by regulation. This is monitoring essential to maintaining our compliance with federal requirements, including National Standards, or necessary for the ongoing management of the fishery. Postponement would have a significant and immediate impact on management.

Examples include monitoring that has a direct bearing on an assessment or its inputs, harvest policy, or current management structure such as: agency fish surveys that are the inputs for fish stock assessment, marine mammal surveys needed for tracking Biological Opinion requirements, or socioeconomic data collections needed to evaluate impacts of management decisions and track performance of programs.

URGENT: Research that is essential for compliance with federal requirements, including National Standards, or that has been identified by management as necessary to aid decision-making. It is expected that a one or two year project would meet the information need. Postponement would have a significant impact on management.

Examples include genetics analyses to resolve stock delineation questions for harvest specifications, deep-sea coral habitat mapping, or marine mammal ecology or fishery interaction studies that would provide important input into Biological Opinions or NEPA analyses.

IMPORTANT (Near Term): Obtaining a new set of data or research result that is likely to aid in the evaluation of a near term or ongoing management goal. The research might involve a time-limited program or work that could continue indefinitely. Postponement will not have an immediate impact on fishery management; however, the information generated will likely inform near term (e.g., <5 year) Council actions.

Examples include studies to improve parameters for stock assessment, advancement of information for EBM, gear research to reduce bycatch, management strategy evaluations to examine robustness of harvest policies to climate change, social science surveys to inform the design of new rationalization programs, incorporation of uncertainty into harvest-setting, examination of ecosystem thresholds for management, particularly if these have been identified as items to implement expressed goals of the NPFMC through the groundfish PSEIS workplan or FEP.

STRATEGIC (Future Needs): Research that is valuable but is not associated with an immediate need or near-term (e.g., <5years) Council action.

Examples include some types of long-term studies related to climate change, ichthyoplankton surveys or analyses that have not yet been linked to a stock assessment or fishery management need, new methods to monitor disease, or monitoring of contaminant levels in living marine resources.