Research Priority Summary Change Report: 11/7/2014 - 11/15/2014

ID	Title | Status | Priority | Description
146	Improve surveys in untrawlable habitat, particularly for rockfish, Atka mackerel, and sculpins Partially underway Critical For groundfish in general, and rockfish and Atka mackerel in particular, continue and expand research on trawlable and untrawlable habitat to improve resource assessment surveys. For example, improved surveys, such as hydro-acoustic surveys, are needed to better assess pelagic rockfish species that are found in untrawlable habitat or are semi-pelagic species such as northern and dusky rockfish. A number of publications specific to untrawlable grounds and rockfish sampling have been published recently, but have not been incorporated directly into routine stock assessment ~~our~~ routine survey designs.
154	Pacific cod stock assessment for the Aleutian Islands Underway High Develop an age-structured Pacific cod stock assessment for the Aleutian Islands region. ~~T~~In 2014 the Aleutian Islands and eastern Bering Sea regions ~~will soon b~~ere split and ~~get their own~~have separate ABC's and OFL's. There~~fore there~~ is need to develop an assessment model for cod in the Aleutians.
171	Acquire basic life history information (e.g., natural mortality, growth, size at maturity) for data-poor stocks~~.~~ Partially underway High Basic life history information is needed for stock assessment and management of data-poor stocks, such as scallops, sharks, skates, sculpins, octopus, grenadiers, squid, and blue king crab (Bering Sea), golden king crabs (Aleutian Islands), and red king crab (Norton Sound). Specifically, information is needed on natural mortality, growth rates, size at maturity, and other basic indicators of stock production/productivity.
206	Biomass indices and alternate methodologies for lowest tier groundfish species Partially underway High Develop biomass indices for lowest tier species (Tier 6 for groundfish), such as sharks and octopus~~.~~. Explore alternative methodologies for Tier 6 stocks such as length-based methods, catchability experiments (e.g., net selectivity), or biomass dynamics models.

ID	Title | Status | Priority | Description
209	Investigate factors affecting the guided angler sector of the halibut fishery Underway Medium Continue to investigate factors that affect angler demand and trip supply in the guided angler sector of the halibut fishery ~~resulting from regulatory changes under consideration by the North Pacific Management Council or general economic conditions~~.
217	Impact of fisheries on benthic habitat and trophic interactions Underway Medium ~~I~~Conduct studies to assess the impact of bottom trawl fisheries on invertebrate abundance and species composition in benthic habitats. This is especially relevant to the foraging ecology of walrus (candidate species for listing under ESA), but also bearded seals, and gray whales.
223	Develop and evaluate global climate change models (GCM) or downscaled climate variability scenarios to assess impacts to recruitment, growth, and spatial distributions. Underway Medium Quantify the effects of historical climate variability and climate change on recruitment, growth, and spatial distribution. Develop standard environmental scenarios (e.g., from GCMs) for present and future variability based on observed patterns.
227	Improve estimation of fishery interactions with non-target groundfish, and prohibited species. ~~No action~~Underway Medium Improve estimation of fishery interactions (including catch) and non-target groundfish (e.g., sharks, skates), and prohibited species.
241	Develop bottom and water column temperature database ~~-~~ and indices Partially underway Medium Develop bottom and water column temperature database and indices for use in EBS, GOA, and AI stock assessments.

ID	Title | Status | Priority | Description
248	Measure and monitor large scale fish composition ~~No action~~Partially underway Medium Measure and monitor large scale fish composition: evaluate existing data sets (bottom trawl surveys, acoustic trawl surveys, and BASIS surveys) to quantify changes in relative species composition of commercial and non-commercial species, identify and map assemblages, monitor changes in the distribution of assemblages, and understand the spatial importance of predator-prey interactions in response to environmental variability. Additional monitoring may be necessary in the Aleutian Islands, northern Bering Sea, and areas of the Gulf of Alaska.
364	Updated sperm whale stock assessment No action High Updated sperm whale abundance estimates are needed. Sperm whale depredation interactions with longline fisheries have increased, but little is known about sperm whale populations. Updated population estimates and defined PBR's are needed to effectively respond if a take occurs in the longline fishery.
381	Effects of changes to the observer program No action High Evaluate the effects of changes to data collection protocols that occur because of observer restructuring. Ensure that data can be compared easily to the previous data collection methods and time series remain intact. ¶ MERGE with 381???
390	Assess the population status of harbor seals in the Aleutian Islands and determine factors affecting their population trajectories No action Medium Assess the population status of harbor seals in the Aleutian Islands and determine factors affecting their population trajectories ¶ ¶ ~~Is this even a research priority for the JPT?? Remove??~~