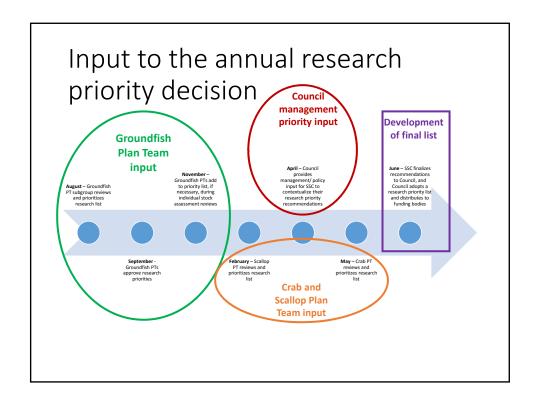# Research Priorities

for 2016-2020

MSA Requirements

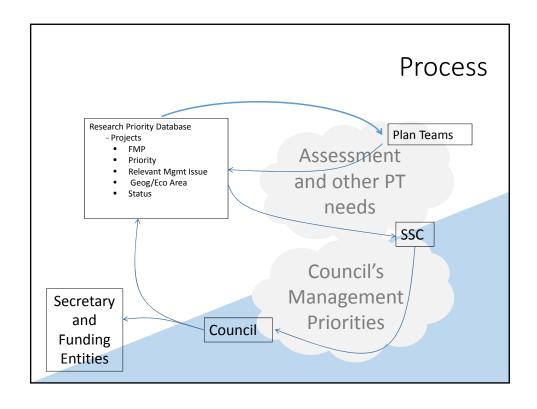Each Council shall, in accordance with the provisions of this Act...

109-479

(7) develop, in conjunction with the scientific and statistical committee, multi-year research priorities for fisheries, fisheries interactions, habitats, and other areas of research that are necessary for management purposes, that shall—
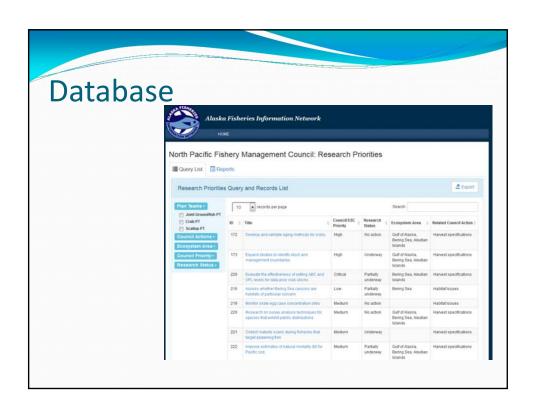
(A) establish priorities for 5-year periods;

(B) be updated as necessary; and

(C) be submitted to the Secretary and the regional science centers of the National Marine Fisheries Service for their consideration in developing research priorities and budgets for the region of the Council

Input to the annual research priority decision

Groundfish Plan Team input

August – Groundfish PT subgroup reviews and prioritizes research list

November – Groundfish PTs add to priority list, if necessary, during individual stock assessment reviews

September - Groundfish PTs approve research priorities

Council management priority input

April – Council provides management/ policy input for SSC to contextualize their research priority recommendations

February – Scallop PT reviews and prioritizes research list

May – Crab PT reviews and prioritizes research list

Crab and Scallop Plan Team input

Development of final list

June – SSC finalizes recommendations to Council, and Council adopts a research priority list and distributes to funding bodies

---

Background

- June 2012
  - SSC - need for more orderly and coherent process
- 2013-2014
  - Database (https://research.psmfc.org/)
  - Revised Terms / Definitions
- February 2015
  - SSC
    - Reviewed draft terms/definitions and PT comments
- April 2015
  - Council
    - Approved terms/definitions
- May 2015
  - SSC Subgroup
    - Applied revised terms to existing research items

Process

Research Priority Database
- Projects
  - FMP
  - Priority
  - Relevant Mgmt Issue
  - Geog/Eco Area
  - Status

Plan Teams

Assessment and other PT needs

SSC

Secretary and Funding Entities

Council

Council's Management Priorities

Database

Alaska Fisheries Information Network

HOME

North Pacific Fishery Management Council: Research Priorities

Query List   Reports

Research Priorities Query and Records List   Export

ID	Title	Council/SSC Priority	Research Status	Ecosystem Area	Related Council Action
172	Develop and validate aging methods for crabs	High	No action	Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands	Harvest specifications
173	Expand studies to identify stock and management boundaries	High	Underway	Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands	Harvest specifications
229	Evaluate the effectiveness of setting ABC and OFL levels for data-poor crab stocks	Critical	Partially underway	Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands	Harvest specifications
216	Assess whether Bering Sea canyons are habitats of particular concern	Low	Partially underway	Bering Sea	Habitat Issues
219	Monitor skate egg case concentration sites	Medium	No action		Habitat Issues
220	Research on survey analysis techniques for species that exhibit patchy distributions	Medium	No action	Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands	Harvest specifications
221	Collect maturity scans during fisheries that target spawning fish	Medium	Underway		Harvest specifications
222	Improve estimates of natural mortality (M) for Pacific cod	Medium	Partially underway	Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands	Harvest specifications

Revised Categories / Definitions

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

URGENT: Research that is essential for compliance with federal requirements, National Standards, or that has been identified by management as important 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.

Revised Categories / Definitions

IMPORTANT (Near Term): Obtaining a new set of data or research result that is likely to aid in the evaluation of a near term management goal. The research might be a several year program. Postponement will not have an immediate impact on fishery management but will likely inform near term (e.g., <5 year) Council actions.

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

Action

- SSC
  - Review existing/new research topics in context of revised priority categories, management priorities
    - Re-designate, assign as needed
  - Recommend Priorities to Council

- Council
  - Review SSC recommendations in light of management priorities
  - Establish 5-year priorities for communication to Secretary

Summary of Changes

New Priority	Count
Critical Ongoing Monitoring	19
Urgent	37
Important	51
Strategic	20
Pending	2
Total	**129**
Old Priority	**Count**
Critical	6
High	52
Medium	51
Low	12
Pending	5
N/A	4
Total	**130**

Summary of Changes

Old Priority	New Priority					
	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Urgent	Important (Near Term)	Strategic (Future Needs)	Other	Total
Critical	4	2				6
High	7	23	19	2	2	53
Medium	7	10	24	10		13
Low	1	1	3	8	1	52
Pending			5		2	7
Total	19	36	51	20	5	131

Management Priorities

SEIS Mgmt Objective	N Research Projects
Prevent Overfishing	51
Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Communities	59
Preserve Food Web	15
Manage Incidental Catch and Reduce Bycatch and Waste	7
Avoid Impacts to Seabirds and Marine Mammals	12
Reduce and Avoid Impacts to Habitat	9
Promote Equitable and Efficient Use of Fishery Resources	6
Increase Alaska Native Consultation	2
Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement	2

Management Priorities

SEIS Mgmt Objective	N Research Projects
Build Integrated Ecosystem Management capabilities	11
Facilitate Council efforts to reduce impacts to chinook salmon	4
Increase knowledge of SSL fishery interactions and population dynamics	6

Next Steps

- Communicate Priorities to NMFS OST
  - AFSC
  - NPRB
  - ADF&G
  - Universities
  - Website

- Go To SSC Recommendations

- Database