**Proposal for Research Priority “pre-meeting” SSC work.**

**Purpose:** To better utilize SSC expertise by aligning review with committee expertise, and to improve the efficiency of discussion during the SSC meeting.

**Council staff (?) and SSC Lead**

* Export research priorities from NPFMC research priority database
* Subset and organize into spreadsheet sorted by “Research Theme”
* Distribute spreadsheet to Subgroups

**Subgroup members**

* Enter updates for (see guidance below) ...
* “Research Status”
* “Priority”
* “Top 4 rank”
* Enter comments as needed
* Send your revised spreadsheet to your Subgroup lead (see below)

**Subgroup leads**

Because individuals in your subgroup will likely make different recommendations for

the updates, please try to coordinate with them so that a single subgroup recommendation is made. If that isn’t possible, use the comments column in the spreadsheet or email to explain, and SSC will discuss items during the April meeting.

**February 2020**

* Form workgroups during February Council meeting
* Assign research items by research theme
* Send out spreadsheet to workgroups with assigned research items for review

**March 2020**

* Subgroups discuss and evaluate research priorities and send results back to Jim Armstrong (?)/SSC lead prior to April Council meeting.
* \*We may have to wait until after the FEP meeting

**April 2020- SSC Discussion**

1. Bring forward research items that were changed: (**i.e.,** **added, dropped, or changed research status/priority).**
2. Highlight items recommended for change by the plan team and whether the SSC agreed or disagreed with these items.
3. Items needing discussion (e.g., lumped or split items)
4. Bring forward top 4 ranking from each subgroup and finalize Top Ten

**Assignments and definitions**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sub-Group** | **Research Theme** | **SSC Subgroup Members**  **(EXAMPLE)** | **N items** |
| 1 | Stock Assessment | Hanselman, Stewart, Cunningham, Dressel |  |
| 2 | Observer Program, Bycatch | Gasper, Lowry, Munroe |  |
| 3 | Fishery Management and Human Dimensions | Anderson, Reimer, Downs, Reedy |  |
| 4 | Habitat, Ecosystem Surveys | Harris, Kruse , Whitman |  |
| 5 | Ecosystem Processes/Climate | Hollowed, Mueter, Bishop, Hunt |  |

**Guidance to each subgroup**

**Plan Team Recommendations.** Items recommended for change by the Plan Teams will be highlighted. SSC needs to determine whether we concur with these changes, and change accordingly if not.

**SSC Priority** –**Urgent, Important, Strategic, Critical Ongoing, Drop, Add, Unknown**. See <https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/resources/Research_Priorities_Terms_Definitions_(current).pdf> for definition of Critical Ongoing, Urgent, Important, and Strategic. If the research item is completed or no longer relevant, it should be changed to a Dropped status. Research items that are unknown will be discussed as a group.

**Research Status** –If known, update the research status (**No action, Partially Underway, Underway, Completed**). Need definitions for these!

**Top 4 rank (?) –** The Council has a Top Ten list of research priorities to reduce the review burden on the Council and to improve communication of highly relevant priorities to external funding sources and the general public. General criteria for the top priority list included considerations of priority level, research status, recent management events or actions, and the specificity of a particular research priority.

Plan Team rankings should be considered; however, not all items were reviewed by the Plan Teams and should be considered in the overall rankings.

**Cross-theme Items**: Subgroups should highlight these if the group believes wider discussion is needed among the SSC.