


MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver 
Executive Director

DATE: May 29, 2013

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous issues – Research Priorities

ESTIMATED TIME 4 HOURS (All D-1 items)
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ACTION REQUIRED

(e) Research Priorities

BACKGROUND

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the Council to adopt a five-year research plan each year. The Council adopted its most recent five-year research plan in June 2012 (Item D-1(c)(1)), based on recommendations from its four Plan Teams, the Scientific and Statistical Committee, and the Advisory Panel. At this meeting, the Council will update its five-year research plan for 2014-2018.

In conjunction with their review of research priorities in June 2012, the SSC determined that a more orderly process for submitting and prioritizing proposals for research priorities was needed. The SSC preferred to have the Plan Teams be the initial filter for research priorities that come before the SSC, and recommended that the Council consider adopting a process of evaluating and organizing the list of proposed research priorities using an excel file or relational database system. The excerpt from the SSC's minutes regarding the suggested revisions are attached as Item D-1(c)(2).

Staff has been working on transitioning the Council and SSC's 2012 research priority list to a spreadsheet-type system. Proposed revisions to the process for the SSC's review of research priorities, and progress to date with developing the spreadsheet, are described in Item D-1(c)(3). This document includes input that was provided to staff on the template development and fields upon SSC review in April 2013.

In developing the new spreadsheet and process, a revised organization and template for the lists by category was developed and provided to the Plan Teams in their subsequent reviews in 2013. As with the original 2012 list, the report format includes the description of the research priority, organized by whether it is an immediate or ongoing concern, and by category heading. The report also lists the status of research related to that priority, based on what the SSC identified in the 2012 list, and then identifies which Plan Team staff asked to review each priority. All Council plan teams have now met and reviewed their priorities and revised them in the new format. The reports from the Groundfish, Scallop and Crab Plan Teams are attached as Item D-1(c)(4), Item D-1(c)(5) and Item D-1(c)(6) respectively. Additionally a sub-group of plan team members reviewed halibut specific research priorities and received input from the Joint Groundfish Teams. These are attached as Item D-1(c)(7). Recommendations from the SSC and AP will be provided during the meeting.