



Curated List of Critical Ongoing Monitoring (COM) for 2024 – 2027

This document represents the curated list of research priorities deemed COM for 2024 - 2027. The SSC Subgroup for research priorities reviewed and edited all COMs and recommends 15 COMs to move forward. The SSC subgroup is also requesting additional input on two COMs, and has proposed two COMs for removal from the COM category. The Plan Teams provided a list of 16 COMs in which seven were from the previous review and nine were elevated from the Urgent or Important categories. There were 21 COM priorities identified in 2021 (20 listed in the [letter](#), 21 in the [database](#); RID 735 was omitted from the letter in error).

Based on the Social Science Plan Team recommendation and the Council's overall goal to facilitate the increased use of Traditional Knowledge within the Council process, the SSC Subgroup recommends the addition of a general statement to the Critical Ongoing Monitoring category in the Research Priorities definition descriptions write up regarding Traditional Knowledge:

The Council has adopted the LKTKS Protocol and has committed to incorporating LKTKS information into ongoing management decision making processes when available and relevant. Research focused on ongoing monitoring of the incorporation of LKTKS would increase the transparency and identify gaps in inclusivity of the process. There are numerous ways Traditional Knowledge will strengthen all Research Priorities, including offering new frameworks for analysis; fostering relationships between Indigenous and Western scientific researchers and communities.

Guide for using this document:

- Each numbered COM below has a research Id # (RID), a list of Citations, and a list of Related RIDs. An * indicates this COM (or something very similar) was on the 2021 Top 10 list. A ** indicates this COM (or something very similar) was on the 2021 and 2018 Top 10 lists.
- Citations indicate what group endorsed the priority on their COM list in 2024 and whether it was on the COM list in 2018 and/or 2021.
- Related RID indicates all the ID numbers that the SSC subgroup determined to be sufficiently similar in intent to the numbered RP.
- Research ID #s (RID) are provided in parentheses with each priority to provide context.
 - Numeric RID greater than or equal to 800 are new or edited priorities for 2024.
 - Numeric RID from 100-799 are existing priorities in the [database](#).
 - Alpha-numeric RID starting with “N” are [new public submissions](#) received during the submission period (July 1, 2023 - October 31, 2023).
 - Alpha-numeric RID also represent [Plan Team submissions](#): BSFEP = Bering Sea FEP Team; CPT = Crab Plan Team; GPT = Groundfish Plan Team; ScPT = Scallop Plan Team; SSPT = Social Science Planning Team; SSCSub = SSC Subgroup Team

Proposed 2024 Critical Ongoing Monitoring priorities:

1. Continuation of State and Federal annual and biennial surveys ([806](#)).
 - a. Citations: CPT, GPT, 2021 & 2018 COM.
 - b. Related RID: 144, 145.
2. Maintain the core biological and oceanographic data (e.g., biophysical moorings, ocean pH, stomach data (diets), zooplankton, meroplankton, age 0 surveys such as BASIS, forage fish, benthic production) necessary to support integrated ecosystem assessment ([800](#)).
 - a. Citations: BSFEP, 2021 & 218 COM.
 - b. Related RID: 150, 186, 190, 192, 218.
3. Evaluate interactions between fisheries and marine mammals, including Killer whale, Sperm whale, Stellar sea lions and Northern fur seals ([801](#)).
 - a. Citations: 2021 & 2018 COM.
 - b. Related RID: 159, 249.
4. Assess vital rates of Steller sea lions ([160](#)).
 - a. Citations: 2021 & 2018 COM.
5. Assess the health of Stellar sea lions ([161](#)).
 - a. Citations: 2021 & 2018 COM.
6. Continue to develop and improve the use of indicator-based ecosystem assessments throughout the range of the Council's managed resources ([187](#)).
 - a. Citations: 2018 COM.
7. Maintain the observer program to monitor, collect and analyze fishery effort and the associated data for catch accounting ([802](#)).
 - a. Citations: CPT, GPT, ScPT, 2021 & 2018 COM.
 - b. Related RID: 207, 612, 735.
8. Continue to collect guided angler sector data for the halibut fishery ([209](#)).
 - a. Citations: 2021 & 2018 COM.
9. * Monitor the economic effects from fishery policy changes on coastal communities with the collection of socio-economic information, including local knowledge and traditional knowledge ([803](#)).
 - a. Citations: CPT, ScPT, SSPT, 2021 & 2018 COM.
 - b. Related RID: 226, 611, 714, 732.
10. Explore factors that contribute to year class strength and recruitment for managed resources, including data-poor stocks ([807](#)).
 - a. Citations: GPT, ScPT (Top5), 2021 & 2018 Urgent.
 - b. Related RID: 171, 208.
11. Continue beluga whale surveys to assess the population, its interactions with fisheries, and collect and assess beluga whale prey information to help inform and support the Cook Inlet Salmon FMP and harvest specifications ([805](#)).
 - a. Citations: No citations, this is a new priority.
 - b. Related RID: No related RID, this is a new priority.
12. Evaluation of salmon PSC mitigation measures ([155](#)).
 - a. Citations: GPT, 2021 & 2018 Urgent.
13. Expand studies to identify stock and management boundaries ([173](#)).
 - a. Citations: ScPT, 2021 & 2018 Urgent.
14. ** Develop stock-specific ecosystem indicators and incorporate into stock assessments ([189](#)).
 - a. Citations: Public (N035a), CPT, GPT.
15. ** Cooperative research efforts to supplement existing at-sea surveys that provide seasonal, species-specific information on upper trophic levels ([246](#)).
 - a. Citations: SSC Subgroup.

More input is requested on RID 165 & 228 to determine if they should remain or be removed from the COM list:

1. Conduct routine surveys of subsistence in the northern Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean ([165](#)).
 - a. Citations: SSPT, 2021 & 2018 COM.
2. Monitor subsistence harvest (patterns, norms, quantities) in communities affected by Council actions ([228](#)).
 - a. Citations: 2021 & 2018 COM.

Proposed for “removal” from COM list:

1. Conduct routine fish, crab, and oceanographic surveys in the Arctic Ocean ([163](#)).
 - a. Citations: GPT, 2021 & 2018 Top 10.
2. Expand statewide scallop survey ([552](#)).
 - a. Citations: 2021 & 2018 COM.

Guide for using this document:

- Priorities that are to remain are in unshaded rows.
- Priorities to be removed from COM or those being combined into a new, revised RP are shaded in grey.
 - Grouped RPs will be designated with heavier borders at the top and bottom of the grouping to identify they go together.

Research ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	Research Status	SSC Subgroup Notes
806	Continuation of State and Federal annual and biennial surveys	Continuation of State and Federal annual and biennial surveys in the GOA, AI, NBS, and EBS, including crab pot surveys, scallop surveys, and the slope survey, are critical aspects of fishery management off Alaska. It is important to give priority to these surveys, in light of recent federal budgets in which funding may not be sufficient to conduct these surveys. Loss of funding for days at sea for NOAA ships jeopardizes these programs. Budgetary concerns have resulted in cuts to not only days at sea, which increases uncertainty, but also sampling the deepest strata, which threatens the value of trawl surveys as a synoptic ecological survey. These surveys provide baseline distribution, abundance, and life history data that form the foundation for stock assessments and the development of ecosystem approaches to management. Although an ongoing need, these surveys are considered the highest priority research activity, contributing to assessment of commercial groundfish, crab, and scallop fisheries off Alaska. Related research priorities: 144 and 145.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	This now includes more inclusive language including scallop (refer to ScPT003) and the slope survey (noted by GPT). 144 was included in GPT supplementary list; 145 in COM of GPT & CPT.
144	District-wide survey for demersal shelf rockfish in Southeast Alaska	Conduct a district-wide survey for demersal shelf rockfish in Southeast Alaska on a biennial or triennial basis. Survey information is becoming extremely dated.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	Subsume into 806
145	Continuation of State and Federal annual and biennial surveys	Continuation of State and Federal annual and biennial surveys in the GOA, AI, NBS, and EBS, including crab pot surveys, is a critical aspect of fishery management off Alaska. It is important to give priority to these surveys, in light of recent federal budgets in which funding may not be sufficient to conduct these surveys. Loss of funding for days at sea for NOAA ships jeopardizes these programs. Budgetary concerns have resulted in cuts to not only days at sea, which increases uncertainty, but also sampling the deepest strata, which threatens the value of trawl surveys as a synoptic ecological survey. These surveys provide baseline distribution, abundance, and life history data that form the foundation for stock assessments and the development of ecosystem approaches to management. Although an ongoing need, these surveys are considered the highest priority research activity, contributing to assessment of commercial groundfish and crab fisheries off Alaska.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	Subsume into 806

Research ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	Research Status	SSC Subgroup Notes
800	Maintain the core biological and oceanographic data (e.g., biophysical moorings, ocean pH, stomach data (diets), zooplankton, meroplankton, age 0 surveys such as BASIS, forage fish, benthic production) necessary to support integrated ecosystem assessment	Maintain core data and process studies needed to support integrated ecosystem assessments. Core data include inputs for single- or multi-species management strategy evaluations, food web dynamics including predator-prey interactions, and coupled biophysical end-to-end ecosystem models. Develop and maintain indices of sea ice formation, sea ice retreat, and timing/extent of the spring bloom for the EBS. For this, maintenance of moorings, especially M-2, is essential. If recent changes in ice cover and temperatures in the Bering Sea persist, these may have profound effects on marine communities. The collection of zooplankton and meroplankton biomass and community composition time series data is important to understanding lower trophic levels and potential changes that may be occurring in the GOA, BSAI, and Arctic. Long-term survey data of forage fish to describe spatial and temporal variability of forage fish communities can inform potential impacts to predator fish communities. Related research priorities include: 150, 186, 190, 192, and 218.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	Combine with 186, 190, 192, & 218. 150: COM, BSFEP 192: COM, BSFEP
150	Maintain the core biological and oceanographic data (e.g., biophysical moorings, diet data, zooplankton, age 0 surveys, benthic production) necessary to support integrated ecosystem assessment.	Maintain the core data and process studies needed to support integrated ecosystem assessments. Core data include inputs for single- or multi-species management strategy evaluations, food web, and coupled biophysical end-to-end ecosystem models (e.g. biophysical moorings, stomach data, zooplankton, age 0 surveys (i.e. BASIS surveys), benthic production). Develop and maintain indices of sea ice formation, sea ice retreat, and timing/extent of the spring bloom for the EBS. For this, maintenance of moorings, especially M-2, is essential. If recent changes in ice cover and temperatures in the Bering Sea persist, these may have profound effects on marine communities.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	Incorporated into RID 800

Research ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	Research Status	SSC Subgroup Notes
186	Collect and maintain zooplankton and meroplankton biomass and community composition time series	Collect and maintain zooplankton and meroplankton biomass and community composition time series in the eastern Bering Sea. Develop, collect and maintain time series of zooplankton biomass and community composition for the GOA, AI, Arctic.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	Incorporated into new COM 800.
190	Collect and maintain time series of ocean pH	Collect and maintain time series of ocean pH in the major water masses off Alaska to improve understanding of ocean acidification and its effects on managed species, upper level predators and lower trophic levels	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	Incorporated into RID 800.
192	Collect, analyze, and monitor diet information	Collect, analyze, and monitor diet information (species, biomass, energetics), from seasons in addition to summer, to assess spatial and temporal changes in predator-prey interactions, including marine mammals and seabirds. The diet information should be collected on the appropriate spatial scales for key predators and prey to determine how food webs may be changing in response to shifts in the range of crab and groundfish.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	Incorporated into RID 800.
218	Survey capability for forage fish	Develop a long-term survey capability for forage fish (partially underway). The NPRB funded GOA and Bering Sea projects are currently describing the spatial and temporal variability in the structure of forage fish communities and the effect of this variability on predators. This work should be continued and methods for long-term monitoring should be developed.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	Now included in RID 800. Will need to assign new category in database such as “retired” or “legacy” after the April 2024 meeting.
801	Evaluate interactions between fisheries and marine mammals, including Killer whale, Sperm whale, Stellar sea lions and Northern fur seals.	Studies of the interactions between fisheries and protected species, such as Steller sea lions in the Central and Western Aleutian Islands (areas 541, 542, 543), and northern fur seals on the eastern Bering Sea shelf are needed and should be continued. These studies should be conducted at appropriate spatial and temporal scales with an emphasis on seasonal prey fields, diet, environmental variability, predator-prey interactions, and movement of fisheries and marine mammals. Related research priorities include: 159 and 249.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	This now combines language from RID 159 and 249.

Research ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	Research Status	SSC Subgroup Notes
159	Evaluate interactions between fisheries and pinnipeds	Studies of the interactions between fisheries and protected species, such as Steller sea lions in the Central and Western Aleutian Islands (areas 541, 542, 543), and northern fur seals on the eastern Bering Sea shelf are needed. These studies should be conducted at appropriate spatial and temporal scales with an emphasis on seasonal prey fields, diet, and movement of fisheries and pinnipeds.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	
249	Monitor the movement of Steller sea lions and northern fur seals	Monitor the movement of Steller sea lions and northern fur seals in response to environmental variability to understand the spatial changes of predator-prey interactions.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	
160	Assess vital rates of Steller sea lions	Assess vital rates (i.e., reproduction and survival) of Steller sea lions in the western DPS (including Russia) at sufficient frequency to track population dynamics.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	Keep
161	Assess the health of Stellar sea lions	Assess possible indirect effects of fisheries removals via periodic health assessments, indices of body condition, survival of pups and juveniles, and natality of Steller sea lions in the western DPS.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	Keep
187	Continue to develop and improve the use of indicator-based ecosystem assessments throughout the range of the Council's managed resources	Maintain indicator-based ecosystem assessment for EBS.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	Keep

Research ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	Research Status	SSC Subgroup Notes
802	Maintain the observer program to monitor, collect and analyze fishery effort and the associated data for catch accounting	Collect and analyze fishery effort and observer data for fish, crab, and scallops. Standardize CPUE data to correct for factors contributing to variable CPUE. The collection of fishery dependent data that is collected by observers, electronic monitoring, and the State of Alaska provide critical information for sustainable fisheries management. These data include: a) the amount, distribution, species composition, size, age, maturity, and genetics of targeted and PSC catch (including genetics for Chum and Chinook salmon); b) seabird catch; and c) marine mammal encounters and mortalities. Related research priorities include: 207, 612, and 735.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	This now updates and combines the language of RID's 207, 612, and 735. 612: COM CPT, GPT, ScPT 735: COM CPT
207	Collect and analyze fishery effort and observer data for scallops	Collect and analyze fishery effort and observer data for scallops. Standardize CPUE data to correct for factors contributing to variable CPUE.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	Now incorporated into RID 802.
612	Maintain observer program	Maintain the observer data collection activity and ensure that fishery dependent data collected provides a valid representation of the catch and can be compared easily to the previous data collection methods and time series remain intact.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	Now incorporated into RID 802.
735	Fishery monitoring and catch accounting	Fishery dependent data collected by observers, electronic monitoring, and the state of Alaska provide information critical for sustainable fisheries management. These data include: a) the amount, distribution, species composition, size, age, maturity and genetics of both the targeted catch and PSC catch (including genetics for chum and Chinook salmon); b) seabird catch; and c) marine mammal encounters and mortalities.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	Now incorporated into RID 802.
209	Continue to collect guided angler sector data for the halibut fishery	Continue to collect the guided angler sector data for the halibut fishery. Continue to explore factors that affect angler demand and trip supply. (note the IPHC collects unguided angler sector data)	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	Keep

Research ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	Research Status	SSC Subgroup Notes
803	Monitor the economic effects from fishery policy changes on coastal communities with the collection of socio-economic information, including local knowledge and traditional knowledge.	Collect socio-economic information on commercial, recreational, and charter fishing, as well as fish processing, to meet the requirements of the MSFCMA sections 303(a)(5, 9, 13), 303(b)(6), and 303A. Monitor the socio-economic effects from fishery policy changes on coastal communities. This includes understanding socio-economic impacts (both direct and indirect) and how the impacts are distributed among communities and economic sectors. Evaluate the role of fisheries in the BSAI in providing food security and economic opportunities in coastal communities. Additional focus on the impacts of the shifts in species distribution such as pollock and cod stocks shifting northward with changing ecosystem and environmental conditions. Understanding the impacts of fishery policy changes on communities is a critical component of management and efforts to collect this information should increase in effort. Related research priorities: 226, 611, 714, and 732.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	Combines 226, 230, 611, 714, 732, and BSFEP009. 226: COM CPT; Supp SSPT 230: Top5 SSPT 611: Supp SSPT; COM CPT & ScPT 714: Supp SSPT 732: Top5 through BSFEP009
226	Monitor the economic effects from fishery policy changes on coastal communities.	Monitor the socio-economic effects from fishery policy changes on coastal communities. This includes understanding socio-economic impacts (both direct and indirect) and how the impacts are distributed among communities and economic sectors.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	Combined into 803
230	Examine social and economic interactions between coastal communities and commercial and recreational fisheries	Examine social and economic interactions between coastal communities and commercial and recreational fisheries (e.g. subsistence-commercial linkages, adaptations to changes in resource use, economic opportunities for coastal communities).	Important	Underway	Combined into 803
611	Collection of socio-economic information	Collect socio-economic information on commercial, recreational, and charter fishing, as well as fish processing, to meet the requirements of the MSFCMA sections 303(a)(5, 9, 13), 303(b)(6), and 303A.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	Combined into 803
714	Evaluate impacts on Northern Bering Sea Communities from Pacific cod and pollock shifts northward	Pollock and cod stocks in the Bering Sea have been seen in greater volumes since the NBS survey was conducted in 2017. These stocks may have impacts on local harvest of other species as well as increased interactions with groundfish fishing sectors such as the Pacific cod longline fleet that are active in the region.	Important	No action	Combined into 803

Research ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	Research Status	SSC Subgroup Notes
732	LK and TK data collection	This research priority would support more structured and consistent sources of ecosystem information for use in annual reports (such as ESRs), specific fishery management actions, or future development of conceptual models, especially as there are some areas that are data poor. Ultimately want to build systematic onramps into the Council process, but need data to be able to populate those onramps also.	Strategic	Partially underway	Combined into 803
807	Explore factors that contribute to year class strength and recruitment for managed resources, including data-poor stocks.	New information and data are needed that would inform our understanding of the stock-recruit relationship and recruitment for groundfish, Pacific halibut, crab, and data-poor stocks (all blue king crab stocks, three red king crab stocks, Pribilof Islands golden king crab, scallops, sharks, skates, sculpins, octopus, grenadiers, and squid) to project year-class strength. Related research priorities: 171 & 208.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	Combines 171 & 208, moved from Urgent to COM. 171: Top5 ScPT 208: COM GPT
208	Explore factors that contribute to year class strength for managed resources	New information and data are needed that would inform our understanding of the stock-recruit relationship for groundfish, Pacific halibut, and crab to project year-class strength.	Urgent	Underway	Combined to 807
171	Acquire basic life history information (e.g., natural mortality, growth, size at maturity) for data-poor stocks	Basic life history information is needed for data-poor stocks including all blue king crab stocks, three red king crab stocks, Pribilof Islands golden king crab, scallops, sharks, skates, sculpins, octopus, grenadiers, and squid. Specifically, information is needed on natural mortality, growth rates, size at maturity, predation, and other basic indicators of stock production/productivity, which is especially critical for stocks in rebuilding.			Combined to 807

Research ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	Research Status	SSC Subgroup Notes
805	Continue beluga whale surveys to assess the population, its interactions with fisheries, and collect and assess beluga whale prey information to help inform and support the Cook Inlet Salmon FMP and harvest specifications.	It is critical to understand and assess the Cook Inlet beluga whale population, potential interactions with the fisheries, and prey availability to guide management decisions and policy with the related Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery Management Plan. This data is needed for setting Cook Inlet Salmon harvest specifications.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	NEW RP! This could possibly be lumped in with 801, but likely better to keep separate for now. We'll need to "flag" as a new addition.
155	Evaluation of salmon PSC mitigation measures	Develop a research program that will facilitate evaluation of salmon (both Chinook and non-Chinook) PSC mitigation measures in the BSAI and GOA. This includes updated estimates of the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence, timing of runs and openings relative to subsistence, and access to cost data for the commercial pollock and salmon industries so that impacts on profits (not gross revenues) can be calculated.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Underway	This moves RID 155 from Urgent to COM. COM: GPT
173	Expand studies to identify stock and management boundaries	To identify and refine stock boundaries and understand source/sink dynamics (e.g., scallop metapopulations). Conduct studies to evaluate all crab stock boundaries relative to management boundaries (e.g. Bristol Bay red king crab, Adak red king crab, Aleutian Island golden king crab, EBS Tanner crab, Pribilof blue king crab). Expanded studies are needed in the areas of genetics, mark-recapture, reproductive biology, larval distribution, and advection. Such boundaries are to be evaluated so that the risks and consequences of management actions are clear.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	This moves RID 173 from Urgent to COM. COM: ScPT
189	Develop stock-specific ecosystem indicators and incorporate into stock assessments	Develop stock-specific ecosystem indicators and incorporate into stock assessments.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	This moves RID 189 from Urgent to COM. This was in the draft Top 10 list for the SSC Subgroup - is the intent to remove it from the draft Top 10 and include in COM? COM: CPT

Research ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	Research Status	SSC Subgroup Notes
246	Cooperative research efforts to supplement existing at-sea surveys that provide seasonal, species-specific information on upper trophic levels	Continue and expand cooperative research efforts to supplement existing at-sea surveys that provide seasonal, species-specific information on upper trophic levels (seabirds and marine mammals). Updated surveys to monitor distribution and abundance of seabirds and marine mammals are needed to assess impacts of fisheries on apex predators, improve the usefulness of apex predators as ecosystem indicators, and to improve ecosystem management.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	This moves RID 246 from Important to COM. COM: SSCSub

Requesting more input:

Research ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	Research Status	SSC Subgroup Notes
165	Conduct routine surveys of subsistence in the northern Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean	Conduct routine surveys of subsistence use of marine resources in the northern Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean. These surveys will become increasingly important under ongoing warming ocean temperatures because range expansions of harvested fishery resources may occur. If range expansions or shifts occur, data will be needed to adjust standard survey time series for availability.	Important	Partially underway	<p>Consider removing from COM and adding to Important.</p> <p>Top5: SSPT with title change to “Conduct routine surveys of subsistence uses of resources in communities across the Bering Sea, northern Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean”</p> <p><i>Need feedback: Should it stay or should it go?</i></p>
228	Monitor subsistence harvest (patterns, norms, quantities) in communities affected by Council actions.	Monitor the subsistence harvest patterns, norms and quantities in communities that depend upon resources that may be affected by Council action.	Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	<p>Consider removing from COM and adding to Important</p> <p><i>Need feedback: should it stay or should it go?</i></p>

Considered for removal from COM list:

Research ID	Title	Description	Council Priority	Research Status	SSC Subgroup Notes
163	Conduct routine fish, crab, and oceanographic surveys in the Arctic Ocean	Dynamic ecosystem and environmental changes in the Arctic Ocean are occurring. Assessment of the current baseline conditions and trophic interactions is important. This effort should not supplant the regular surveys in the BSAI and GOA, which are of critical importance to science and management.	Important	Partially underway	Recommend not including in COM list. COM: GPT (2024) Not critical and has not been ongoing. This is listed as Important in the database. Suggest that it remains in Important. and was on 2021 Top 10 list.
552	Expand statewide scallop survey	The State of Alaska fishery independent dredge survey has been conducted in a limited number of known beds. Expansion of the survey beyond the edges of known beds into previously un-surveyed areas will improve knowledge of bed size and true scallop distribution..	Important	Underway	Consider removing from COM and adding to Important. This survey is seen as important, but may not be "ongoing"