

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members

FROM: Chris Oliver ^{DO}
Executive Director _{FOR}

DATE: March 26, 2013

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous issues – Research Priorities

ESTIMATED TIME 6 HOURS (All D-1(a,-b, c, d, e))

ACTION REQUIRED

(e) Research Priorities (SSC only)

BACKGROUND

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.

Since June, 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(e)(1). Staff is looking for feedback from the SSC as to whether the described changes meet the SSC's intent. Item D-1(e)(2) is the revised list of 2012 SSC/Council research priorities, output as a report from the spreadsheet. As with the original 2012 list, the report 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. Item D-1(e)(3) is a table identifying other attributes associated with each unique research priority, such as how it relates to a Council action, and what species, fisheries, or issues it affects.

The Scallop and Groundfish Plan Teams met to discuss and prioritize research priorities in February and March, respectively. The revised research priorities report by the Joint Groundfish Plan is attached as Item D-1(e)(4). The excerpted scallop research priorities, in the revised format, are attached as Item D-1(e)(5). The Crab Plan Team will be reviewing its assigned research priorities in May.

For reference, the relevant excerpt from the SSC's June 2012 minutes relating to the research priorities process, and the 2012 list of research priorities as adopted, are included as Item D-1(e)(6).