



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

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Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
Research Priorities

STAFF CONTACT: Jim Armstrong

ACTION REQUIRED:
Review/recommend Research Priorities for 2017-2021

BACKGROUND:
The Magnuson-Stevens Act (§ 302) requires that Councils update five-year research priorities on an as-needed basis:

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

(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 five-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;”

In order to comply with this statutory requirement, it has been the practice of this Council, following consultation with its SSC and Plan Teams, to review research priorities and communicate its research recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce on an annual basis. Accordingly, the Council conducted its most recent five-year research review in June 2015. That process included an overhaul of the terminology used to indicate the position of the various research projects within the Council’s five-year planning horizon. These new terms and their associated definitions are provided in an attachment that also includes a few edits for clarification suggested by the Plan Teams. At this meeting, the SSC and Council will continue to apply the modified terminology to update existing research priorities and identify any new priorities for the upcoming five-year period (2017-2021).

In accordance with Council procedures, the Council’s Plan Teams (Joint Groundfish, Crab, and Scallop) have each reviewed the existing priorities and have made suggestions for modifications and additions. The list of 137 research priorities from 2015, annotated with Plan Team recommendations is attached. Additionally, as a separate document, new research priorities identified by the Plan Teams are also attached. Staff will review priorities with the SSC, AP, and Council in a summary fashion in order to facilitate discussion relevant to recommendations for the upcoming five-year period.