



# RESEARCH PRIORITIES

PLAN TEAM INFORMATION



# PURPOSE OF RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- Magnuson-Stevens Act requires Councils to identify 5-year research priorities for fisheries, fisheries interactions, habitat and other areas of research that are necessary for management purposes
- Research priorities are selected based on how well they align with or inform management for the federal fisheries the Council manages
- Council has moved to a system of identifying 5-year priorities on a triennial basis
  - Last review was in 2021



# NPFMC RESEARCH PRIORITY CATEGORIES

- **Critical ongoing monitoring**

Information provided by monitoring activities in this category (1) provide an essential management function; (2) cannot likely be acquired through other means; or (3) are required by regulation. (e.g., agency fish surveys, socioeconomic data collections)

- **Urgent**

Research that is essential for compliance with federal requirements, including National Standards, or that has been identified by management as necessary to aid decision-making. It is expected that a one or two year project would meet the information need. Postponement would have a significant impact on management. (e.g., genetic analyses to resolve stock delineation questions for harvest specifications, fishery interaction studies to provide important input for Biological Opinions or NEPA analyses)

- **Important (near term)**

Obtaining a new set of data or research result that is likely to aid in the evaluation of a near term or ongoing management goal. The research might involve a time-limited program or work that could continue indefinitely. Postponement will not have an immediate impact on fishery management; however, the information generated will likely inform near term (e.g., <5 year) Council actions. (e.g., studies to improve stock assessment parameters, gear research to reduce bycatch, MSEs, social science surveys to inform new rationalization programs)

- **Strategic (future needs)**

Research that is valuable but is not associated with an immediate need or near-term (e.g., <5years) Council action. (e.g. long-term climate change studies, ichthyoplankton surveys that have not yet been linked to a stock assessment, monitoring contaminant levels in living marine resources)

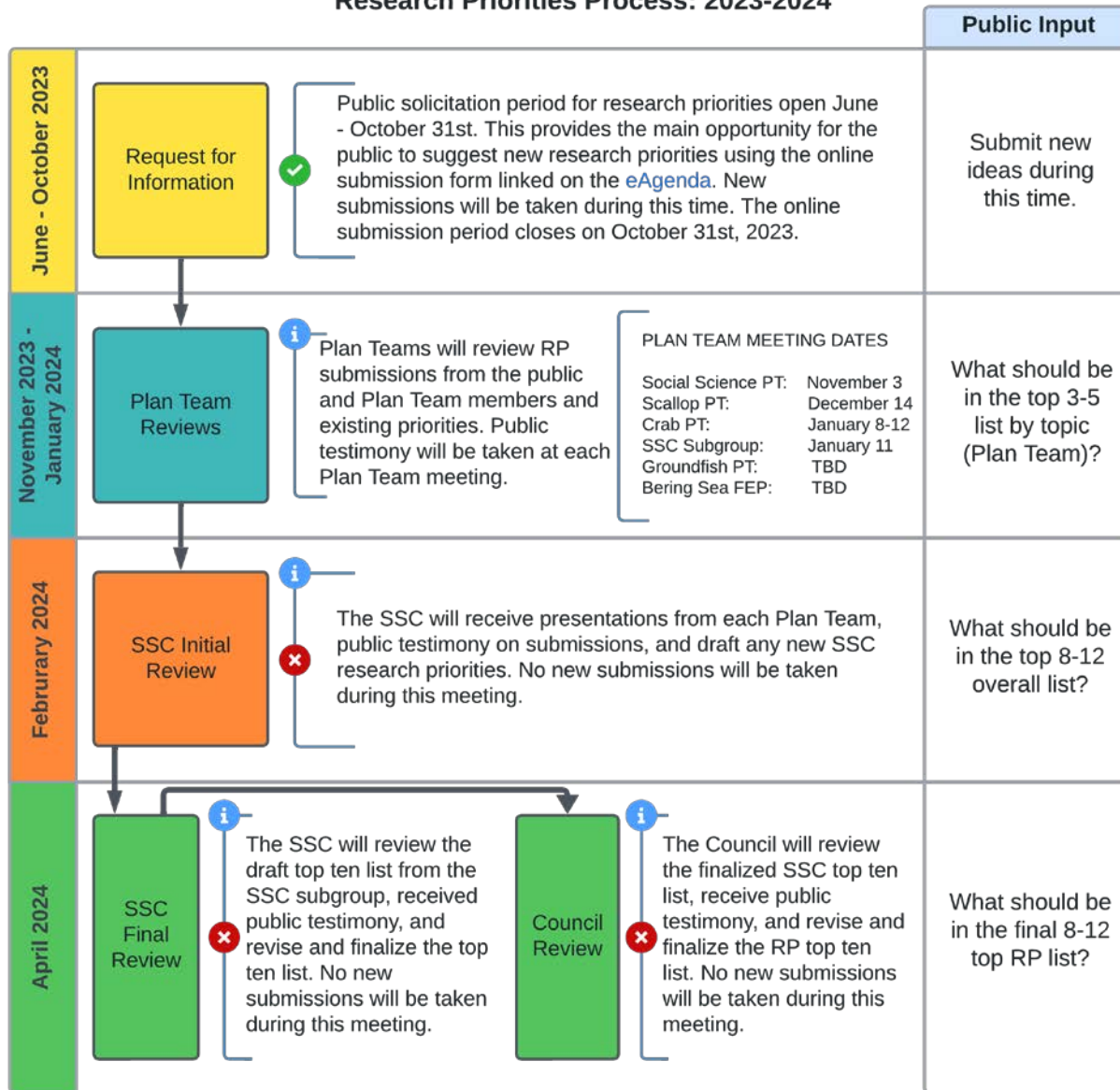
# SSC PLAN FOR RESEARCH PRIORITIES 2024

- Builds on existing process:
  1. Plan Teams as initial filter of research priorities – both of comprehensive list (database) plus top immediate priorities
  2. SSC amalgamates all inputs and identifies top 8-12 priorities
  3. Council considers and adopts final SSC recommendation
- Adds new defined pathway for public input
  - Opportunity to suggest **new research priorities** through online public solicitation period, open July to October 31, 2023
  - Opportunity to comment on **which projects are prioritized** at Plan Team review meetings scheduled Nov-Jan, and SSC in February



## Research Priorities Process: 2023-2024

We are here



**Icon Key:**

Public testimony opportunity

New submissions will be accepted

No new submissions will be accepted



# RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS & CONSIDERATIONS

- Determine date of Plan Team RP meeting
- Consider how Plan Team members will prioritize submissions and existing RPs
- Review previous Plan Team RP notes/minutes (from 2021)
- Plan Team member submissions using Google form
  - Staff will provide link to Plan Team members
  - Set a submission deadline for members (must be before Feb SSC meeting)



# GROUND FISH PLAN TEAMS RESEARCH PRIORITIES - PROPOSED PROCESS

1. All GPT members review existing database of research priorities
2. New research priorities will be distributed to GPT after Oct 31
3. A Google Form will be distributed to PT members through email
4. Each member submit 1-3 research priorities based on existing database, new research themes, and your expert opinion
5. Team submissions will be inventoried and organized
6. In January, the Teams will meet and review the submitted research priorities, listen to public comment, and then rank the top research priorities
  - a) SSC is looking for 3-5 research priorities from the GPT



# RESEARCH PRIORITIES GPT ASSIGNMENT

For January Meeting, Team members:

1. Review existing and new research priorities
2. Develop 1-3 well written research priorities
  - a) Succinct
  - b) Inclusive
  - c) Attainable
3. Review overall Team recommendations
4. Evaluate using expert opinion
5. Listen to Public testimony
6. Vote on top 3-5 to submit to SSC





# WELL-WRITTEN RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Example - query stock structure in existing database

- Stock structure - 4 research priorities listed
  1. Determine quantitative indicators of spatial structure, particular for walleye pollock and Pacific cod
  2. Arrowtooth stock structure and movement
  3. Population structure of scallops
  4. Dusky rockfish and and shortspine thornyhead genetics research for improved population structure

As PT member - if you think stock structure is a top candidate, help frame the best research priority you can and provide on the Google form

- Possible research priority....
  1. Initiate research to better understand genetic stock structure to help improve understanding of spatial management of Alaskan groundfish and invertebrate stocks

The better research priorities we have to evaluate, the better the January meeting will go...