



PLAN TEAM RESEARCH PRIORITIES

REVIEW AND SELECTION OF TOP 3-5 PRIORITIES FOR SSC

PLAN TEAM RESEARCH PRIORITIES CHECKLIST

- Review submissions relevant to your Plan Team (new and previous)
- Review Plan Team member submissions
- Receive public testimony
- Determine Plan Team top 3-5 research priorities to send to SSC
 - OPTIONAL: Can provide a list of additional priorities seen as important but not included in the top 3-5. Please include no more than 10.
- Additional documentation:
 - Document methods for how the Plan Team arrived at their top 3-5 list
 - Provide recommendations for future improvements to the process



AT THE RESEARCH PRIORITIES PLAN TEAM MEETING – DRAFT AGENDA

Part 1: Discussion

- Discussion of submissions for research priorities (existing, new, and member)
- Discuss and review your choice for the top 3-5.
- **Public testimony:** hoping to focus the public to help us prioritize (rather than adding new ideas at this point)
- *Take a break: members submit their final top 3-5 to staff for rank-choice voting*

Part 2: Voting

- Rounds of rank choice voting to get to our top 3-5 to submit to the SSC
 - 10-12 can be specified as priorities seen as important to the Plan Team, but need to identify the top 3-5 for SSC review.
 - **Note:** voting will utilize the rank-choice voting tool: [RCV123.org](https://rcv123.org)



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- NPFMC Research Priorities [webpage](#)
- Research Priorities [eAgenda](#)
- 2024 Research Priorities Triennial Review background [document](#)
- The [SSC proposed process](#) for the 2024 research priorities review
- The [2021 NPFMC list](#) of top research priorities
- The NPFMC research priority [category terms and definitions](#)
- [Link](#) to the NPFMC research priorities database.



BACKGROUND: 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
- Final SSC and Council review will occur at the April 2024 meeting



BACKGROUND: PURPOSE OF RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- After final review, the updated research priorities are provided to:
 - Secretary of Commerce
 - Alaska Fishery Science Center
 - Research and funding entities such as North Pacific Research Board, University of Alaska, University of Washington, Oregon State University, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Ocean Observing System
- Council has moved to a system of identifying 5-year priorities on a triennial basis
 - Last review was in 2021



BACKGROUND: 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)

BACKGROUND: 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 (*note: submission period has now closed*)
 - Opportunity to comment on **which projects are prioritized** at Plan Team review meetings scheduled Nov-Jan, and SSC in February

