



Social Science Planning Team (SSPT) Update for the Council



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

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Economic and Social Sciences Research Program

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Presentation to the Council

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NOAA FISHERIES

Membership

- 7 original members participated in Nov. 14 first meeting teleconference
- Steve Kasperski (AFSC) elected chair
- 3 potential new members

SSPT Mission

- Improve the quality and application of social science data to inform management
- Strategize medium- and long-term improvements in analytical methodology
- Improve utilization of existent social science data and identify gaps

SSPT Scope

- Identify deficiencies in collected social science data; recommend priority of need to address gaps
- Review existing data sets in regard to their quality and utilization (or underutilization) in analyses
- Recommend revisions to data collections where possible
- Establish analytical “best practices” and support staff
- Maintain an understanding of current and ongoing social science research
- Provide feedback on AFSC’s annual research proposals
- Provide feedback on NPFMC’s research priorities in the form of comments channeled to the SSC

Discussion of SSPT Scope on Nov. 14 call

- Discussion of member roles and responsibilities
- Expectations of time commitment and tasks
- Discussion on the SSPT's core function (for the moment)
 - Establishing medium and long-term research goals via gap analysis, comment synthesis, and best practices in data collection and analytical methodologies.
- Discussion of areas outside the scope of the SSPT (for the moment), including stock assessment prioritization and Am91/skipper surveys that are being reviewed by other entities (mostly the SSC)

Discussion of our next in-person meeting

Proposed meeting deliverables

- Review of annual AFSC funding proposals (estimated 7-9 relevant proposals) and project updates
- Comment to the SSC on existing research priorities
- Gap Analysis
- Analytical best practices and updating analytical template (T; ongoing)
- Meeting logistics – likely 1.5-2 days the week of May 7th in Anchorage