



RESEARCH PRIORITIES



PURPOSE OF RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- Magnuson-Stevens Act requires Councils to identify 5-year research priorities: science-based needs and interests that support or improve the Council's ability to provide stewardship over marine resources off Alaska and maintain sustainable fishing communities
- 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



SSC step 2, April mtg: 1) Receive summary and draft top ten list from Step 1 by SSC subgroup, 2) receive public testimony (no new RPs), 3) revise/finalize top ten list.

SSC

Council

SSC step1, Feb mtg: 1) Receive presentations from all PTs, 2) receive public testimony (no new RPs), 3) draft any new SSC RPs.

SSC

Initial Review (Oct-Jan; eg Jan CPT): 1) PTs review RP suggestions from public, authors, PT members, 2) receive public testimony (new RPs and/or support for others), 3) summarize RPs and recommend top 3-5.

GPTs

CPT

ScPT

SSPT

BS FEP

SSC sub

General Public (online submission, June - Oct)



BSAI CRAB PLAN TEAM ROLE

- Plan Team will meet in January to review research priorities
 1. Which crab-related priorities should be in the comprehensive database?
 2. What are the top 3-5 immediate priorities for BSAI crab?
- Sources for CPT review:
 - List of priorities in existing (2021) database – Linked on eAgenda
 - New submissions from public (after 10/31 deadline)
 - New recommendations from Team members, or culled from PT minutes – submitted in advance through google form that will be distributed by staff (TBD date- look for email in Oct/early Nov.)
- PT member homework before January meeting:
 - Review previous submission in the database
 - Review PT minutes from 2021-now to capture any research needs the team highlighted
 - Preliminary prioritization (Top 10?)
- How will CPT prioritize during the January meeting?
 - Staff will develop a real-time poll for CPT to use to narrow down 3-5
- Chairs will present CPT findings to SSC in February under a research priorities agenda item

