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)

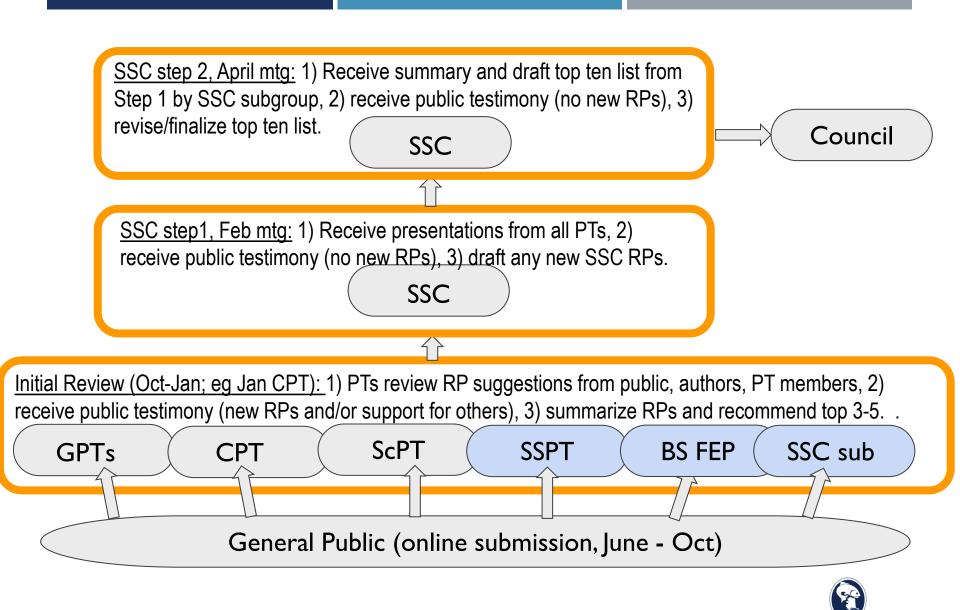
Obtaining a new set of data or research result that is likely to aid in the evaluation of a near term or ongoing management goal. The research might involve a time-limited program or work that could continue indefinitely. Postponement will not have an immediate impact on fishery management; however, 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 (<u>database</u>) 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 <u>online</u> 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



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