Plan Team Recommendations for New Research Priorities

D2 Plan Team Recommendations
JUNE 2016

Research ID	Title	Description	Plan Teams	Research Status	Ecosystem Areas	Keywords	Management Objective
511	Computerized image analysis of current camera sled data	Assessment of existing database of camsled images is needed to provide scallop counts and sizes, contributing to abundance estimates. Additionally, sediment and habitat type and presence of other organisms can be assessed.	Scallop PT - Priority: Urgent	Underway	Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands	Fish and Fisheries Monitoring, Scallop	Prevent overfishing
513	Evaluate extent and importance of parasites in scallop populations	Samples from Bering Sea scallops with weak meats were collected and sent to the ADF&G Anchorage Pathology Lab for analysis of any evidence of diseases and/or parasites. The results showed that the scallops were infected with an apicomplexan-like parasite. To further evaluate the geographic extent and infection rates of this parasite, a sampling effort was initiated in July 2015 to collect samples from select locations across the state, from Yakutat to the Bering Sea.	Scallop PT - Priority: Important	Partially underway	Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands	Environmental Influences on Ecosystem Processes	Preserve Food Web
531	Collect growth data for Bering Sea crab stocks	Pending feedback from PT	Crab PT - Priority: Urgent	Partially underway	Bering Sea	Stock Assessment	Prevent overfishing
532	Natural mortality estimation for crab stocks	Pending feedback from PT	Crab PT - Priority: Important	No action	Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands	Stock Assessment	Prevent overfishing
533	Explore geospatial approaches for time series of survey data	Develop criteria necessary for using Thorson's geostatistical model as an alternative to the designed-based estimates for abundance indices used in stock assessments. Assess whether there are certain life history characteristics or levels of aggregation where this model should be used.	Joint Groundfish PT - Priority: Critical Ongoing Monitoring	Partially underway	Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands	Stock Assessment	Prevent overfishing
534	Develop technical interaction model for BSAI MSE	Pending	Joint Groundfish PT - Priority: Urgent	Underway	Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands	Stock Assessment	Prevent overfishing
535	Development and evaluation of data poor and data moderate methods	Several methods are currently in use around the country for setting harvest specifications for data-poor and data-moderate stocks (corresponding, respectively, to Tiers 6 and 4-5 of the BSAI and GOA groundfish harvest control rules), several others are currently under development, and still others could be developed in the future. There is a need to continue development of such methods and to conduct comparative performance tests of the methods.	Joint Groundfish PT - Priority: Strategic	Underway	Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands	Stock Assessment	Prevent overfishing
536	Evaluate incorporation of climate change impacts into stock assessments	Climate change impacts are becoming an increasingly important consideration for long term planning and should be included in projections of exploitable fish stocks and associated ecosystem components. Incorporation of climate-based parameters into fish stock assessments will allow for exploration of harvest scenarios in the context of evolving climate conditions. Research is needed to explore how these parameters can be integrated into fishery stock assessments.	Joint Groundfish PT - Priority: Strategic	Underway	Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands	Ecosystem Modeling, Stock Assessment	Prevent overfishing
537	Identification of best practices for long term storage of ageing structures.	Archived ageing structures such as otoliths can deteriorate over time unless they are stored in appropriate media. Loss of archived structures reduces the potential for obtaining information through techniques such as micro-chemical analysis. Best practices for long term storage are currently not well established.	Joint Groundfish PT - Priority: Strategic	Partially underway	Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands	Fish and Fisheries Monitoring	Improve Data Quality, Monitoring and Enforcement