

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON UPDATED RESEARCH
AND DATA NEEDS

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) had its first opportunity at this meeting to discuss the draft 2006-2008 Research and Data Needs document (Agenda Item B.6.a, Attachment 1) in its entirety. In addition to minor editorial changes, the SSC has made one substantive change to the document: the addition of Section 3.3 pertaining to emerging issues for salmon.

Given the abbreviated time frame for preparation of this document, the SSC requests that it be allowed to make additional changes to the document after the September Council meeting for inclusion in the public review draft. Specifically, the SSC would like to re-organize Section 5.0 (Highly Migratory Species) to better highlight the distinction between continuing and high priority issues, expand Section 5.3.1 to identify high priority needs for sharks, and add a new section for swordfish (including sea turtle bycatch). The SSC would also like to expand Section 4.0 (Coastal Pelagic Species) to include a discussion of progress to date on high priority issues relevant to Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel and market squid.

The SSC requests that suggestions from other advisory bodies regarding Research and Data Needs be submitted to the Council in the form of specific wording changes to the document. This will facilitate timely completion of the document and ensure that advisory body comments are accurately captured. Also, the SSC has added a placeholder at the beginning of Section 6.3 for inclusion of additional social science information needs as discussed in the Council's July 2005 report *Social Science in the Pacific Fishery Management Council Process*. The SSC requests assistance from Council staff to ensure that Section 6.3 adequately captures the content of the July 2005 report.

Once these changes have been incorporated, the SSC approves the 2006-2008 Research and Data Needs for public review.

PFMC
09/13/06