

UPDATE AND COMMUNICATION OF RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) continually identifies research and data needs across its fishery management plans (FMPs) through a variety of processes, including stock assessment and fishery management cycles. Council Operating Procedure 12 outlines the Council's process for documenting research and data needs and the schedule for completing and communicating these needs to organizations which may be able to support additional research. At the June Council meeting, the Council adopted a public review draft of the document (Agenda Item C.3.a, Attachment 1). The Council is scheduled to adopt a final document at its upcoming September 2008 meeting in Boise, Idaho.

In January 2007, the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006* reauthorized the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) through fiscal year 2013. Specific to research, data collection, and reporting, the amended MSA added several new provisions and programs, including: 1) a study on the state of science for the integration of ecosystem consideration in fishery management, 2) a Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program, 3) a Cooperative Research and Management Program, 4) a Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program, and 5) a requirement under Regional Fishery Management Council Functions, that states the Council shall:

“develop, in conjunction with the scientific and statistical committee, multi-year research priorities for fisheries, fisheries interactions, habitats, and other areas of research that are necessary for management purposes, that shall establish priorities for 5-year periods; be updated as necessary; and be submitted to the Secretary and the regional science centers of the National Marine Fisheries Service for their consideration in developing research priorities and budgets for the region of the Council.”

The Research and Data Needs document, when adopted in its final form by the Council at the September Council meeting, is intended to record and communicate the Council's research and data needs through 2014 to ensure continued well-informed Council decision-making into the future and to fulfill the Council's responsibilities under the reauthorized MSA.

Council Action:

Adopt a Final Research and Data Needs Document.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.3.a, Attachment 1: Public Review Draft, Research and Data Needs, 2008.
2. Agenda Item C.3.a, Attachment 2: National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) Comments.
3. Agenda Item C.3.b, Salmon Technical Team Report.
4. Agenda Item C.3.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt a Final Research and Data Needs Document

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PFMC
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