

RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS AND ECONOMIC DATA PLAN

Situation: The Council's biennial research and data needs process is scheduled to begin with the April 2000 meeting. This process is governed by Council Operating Procedure (COP) 12 (Attachment H.4.a.). Changes are proposed to COP 12 in order to:

1. Bring the schedule of activities in line with the current Council meeting schedule.
2. Incorporate a parallel process for updating the West Coast Economic Data Plan (as authorized when the economic data plan was adopted).
3. Reflect the lead role generally taken by the Scientific and Statical Committee (SSC).
4. Eliminate the specification of research and data need deadlines and work products and also replace the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) exercise of responding to the Council in the fall with an early December meeting to develop a Council/NMFS/Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) consensus on needed high priority initiatives and funding amounts.
5. Recognize that an effective process requires Council staff advocate for Council research and data needs and the economic data plan on a continuous basis.

It is recommended that specification of deadlines and work products be eliminated from the COP (item 4 in the above list). The provision that deadlines and work products be specified was inserted in 1995 as an attempt to encourage agencies to be more responsive and accountable to Council needs. However, this strategy has effectively failed: during attempts to implement these provisions, it was found that useful specification of deadlines and work products required a level of planning, design, and interaction with agencies not provided by the process. Instead, the consensus process used in the most recent iteration of this exercise is being proposed.

The consensus building meeting was generally viewed favorably by participants and seems to have been more effective in communicating West Coast needs to higher levels within NMFS.

Item 5 was added to recognize that meeting Council data needs is not a biennial process but requires a year-round Council effort.

Council Action: Adopt Revisions to COP 12.

Reference Materials:

1. Council Operating Procedure 12 (Attachment H.4.a.).

PFMC
03/01/00