

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS AND ECONOMIC DATA PLAN

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed a variety of proposed changes to the Council's research and data needs process as outlined in revisions to Council Operating Procedure (COP) 12 (Attachment H.4.a.). Under the new procedures the lead role of the SSC is explicitly identified, and the process, as it has evolved over the last two cycles, is codified. In addition, updates to the economic data plan are now explicitly included as part of the research and data needs planning exercise. The SSC endorses all proposed changes to COP 12 and, in addition, recommends language be inserted to reflect that comments from advisory bodies should be submitted in writing to the SSC at the April meeting of even numbered years.

For the next cycle, the SSC notes that increased attention to the research and data needs of coastal pelagic species and highly migratory species is warranted. With respect to groundfish, the goals and objectives in the Council's groundfish strategic plan will provide useful guidance to the SSC in determining priority areas.

PFMC
03/08/00