

Proposed Revision to COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE

**Biennial Update
Development and Communication of
Research and Data Needs
and West Coast Economic Data Plan**

Approved by Council: 07/08/87
Revised: 01/14/88, 03/08/90, 07/10/92, 04/06/95
Draft Proposed 03/10/00

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PURPOSE

The following procedures are intended to identify, on a biennial basis, unmet Council research and data collection needs for each fishery management plan (FMP) and to communicate those needs to organizations which may be able to provide support.

The purposes of this procedure are as follows.

1. Update the Council's research and data needs document. The research and data needs document lists and prioritizes unmet Council research and data collection needs for each fishery management plan (FMP). It also emphasizes some of the ongoing data collection efforts that are particularly important to the Council.
2. Update the Council's West Coast Economic Data Plan. Economic data in particular suffers from the lack of consistent and coordinated collection efforts. The economic data plan is intended to serve as a coordinating instrument for the development and implementation of a systematic approach to the fulfillment of the Council's needs for economic data.
3. Communicate needs to organizations which may be able to provide support.

Neither the research and data needs document nor the economic data plan bind any agency to addressing or responding to Council needs. The key to the effectiveness of these documents is clear and timely communication of needs to parties with an interest and ability to respond. Particular emphasis is placed on strengthening communication with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The procedure is timed to affect have the best chance of influencing annual NMFS operating plans and NMFS budget requests for upcoming years.

PROCEDURES

Biennial Update Cycle for Development of Research and Data Needs List

Continuous

Year-Round	Council staff keeps track of research and data needs as they arise in various forms throughout the year- and, as appropriate, advocates for efforts to address Council needs and implement the economic data plan (such advocacy shall not include the direct lobbying of Congress).
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Even Number Years

April	Council staff compiles and assigns priorities to a proposed list of research and data needs by FMP, including specific work products and deadlines to the extent possible. These are distributed to Council management teams, advisory subpanels and the public for review and comments. Council staff presents updated research and data needs and economic data plan documents to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and other advisory bodies for review at the April Council meeting. Advisory bodies provide comments to the SSC. (Item is not on Council agenda).
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June	The SSC presents recommended revisions to the Council. Other advisory bodies provide comment to the Council. The Council approves draft documents for public review.
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Suggested by Pete Dawson

- August
September After reviewing comments from the public and Council advisory entities, the Council adopts a list of research and data needs its research and data needs and economic data plan. and submits this These documents are submitted to NMFS northwest and southwest regions, centers, and the states. The final document is also transmitted to West Coast and National Sea Grant institutions and posted on the Council web page.
- ~~— August
— through
— September~~ NMFS, in concert with the state agencies, reviews Council recommendations to determine if specific projects can be incorporated in upcoming fiscal year operating plans or submitted as budget initiatives. Budget line items which will need to be expanded to meet the needs are identified. If necessary, the Council staff and appropriate representatives from technical teams and the Scientific and Statistical Committee meet with representatives from NMFS and the states to discuss strategies for addressing the Council's needs. NMFS responds to the Council's recommendations.
- ~~— October~~ Council staff assesses research and data collection needs which probably will not be addressed by NMFS and submits them, as appropriate, to the states (California, Oregon, Idaho and Washington), Sea Grant, and any other sources of support for research and data collection that are identified.
- November Deadline for comments to NMFS on new budget initiatives for the fiscal year two years hence.
- Early
December Council chair and staff meet with representatives from NMFS West Coast regions and centers and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to develop a consensus on high priority initiatives needed to respond to Council needs. Council chair writes a letter to transmit the conclusions from the meeting to NMFS.

Out-of-Cycle Modifications to the Needs List

If a situation arises that would benefit from an out-of-cycle modification to the documents needs list, the Council may announce its intent to modify the needs list one or both documents outside the biennial process and make such a modification at its next meeting. This type of change may be required in order to accommodate some urgent Council need to acquire information.