

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS

The version of draft research and data needs that appears in the briefing book reflects a number of changes suggested by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and other Council advisory bodies before the Council's groundfish strategic plan became available to us. At this meeting the SSC again reviewed the draft research and data needs, largely to ensure that it reflects the recommendations contained in the strategic plan.

Many of the strategic plan recommendations - pertaining, for instance, to capacity reduction, estimation of total removals, frequency of fishery independent surveys, role of industry in data collection, improved stock assessments, evaluation of environmental effects on recruitment and productivity, evaluation and reduction of effects of gear and fishing practices on habitat - were already reflected in the research and data needs. In some cases, specific items have been edited or reprioritized to improve clarity or to make the connection to the strategic plan more explicit. In addition, several new items were added to the draft research and data needs, including a section on marine reserves and an analysis of the extent of overcapacity in the charter boat fleet. Specific SSC recommendations regarding wording changes to research and data needs are described below.

The SSC also updated the draft West Coast Fisheries Economic Data Plan. The document reflects recommendations contained in the strategic plan, with the most notable addition pertaining to evaluation of the socioeconomic effects of marine reserves. The SSC intends to provide additional wording in the document that describes other economics planning and data collection efforts that have been initiated in recent years and the relationship of the economic data plan to these other efforts.

The SSC appreciates the efforts of Mr. Jim Seger in updating the draft research and data needs and the draft economic data plan. Once the proposed changes have been made, the SSC will consider both documents to be ready for public review.

Recommended Wording Changes to Attachment F.1

Ensure the wording of the high priority recommendations provided in the Executive Summary is consistent with the body of the document.

All Fishery Management Plans

Page 2 Add "and species" after "geographic" in fourth sentence. Delete "geographic" in fifth sentence. Replace "will" with "may" in sixth sentence.

Economic Data Plan. In second sentence replace "Developing a coordinated effort" with "Continued development of a coordinated effort."

Page 3 Add a section titled "General Analytical Needs". Subsume "Assessment of Enforcement Effectiveness." Add a second item: "Resources under PFMC jurisdiction respond to large shifts in ocean productivity. For instance, growth and recruitment of rockfish, ocean survival of salmon and the relative abundance of coastal pelagics responded to the major North Pacific climate shift in the late 1970s. In addition, year to year patterns in fishery production tend to show similarities across species (FMP) groups. These holistic resource responses need to be assessed and incorporated into the management process."

Page 3 Economic and Social Data Collection and Research. Delete the last bullet.

Page 4 Add a new item under "Analysis" that reads "Analysis to evaluate extent of overcapacity in the charter vessel fleet."

Groundfish Management Fishery Management Plan

- Page 6 First bullet. Rewrite as follows: “Establish a West Coast coordinator to identify and prioritize stock assessment information needs, to track programs that fulfill those needs and to facilitate establishment of new programs to address unmet needs. This coordinator would report status of biological data collection activities to the Council, with emphasis on anticipated deficiencies identified with respect to stock assessment and management needs.” Make a similar change to the last paragraph on page 7.
- Delete 2nd bullet on electronic monitoring.
- Third bullet. Delete “particularly the trawl fleet.” Delete 2nd sentence. In the third sentence insert “and reducing” after “estimating” and delete “against accurate observations made by observers.” Delete 4th sentence.
- Page 10 Slope Surveys. Move the last sentence of the third bullet to the first bullet.
- Page 11 Environmental Data Collection. In 1st sentence, replace “Data collection” with “Collect, analyze and synthesize data.” In 4th sentence, replace “trawlers” with “vessels”.
- Page 13 Stock Assessment Modeling. Add a second sentence that reads “Develop new models for species for which fishery-independent data are not available (e.g., nearshore rockfishes).”

Salmon Management Fishery Management Plan

- Page 16 Indicator Stocks. Add a sentence to the end of the paragraph that reads “Escapement goals are needed for Washington and Oregon coastal fall chinook.”
- Page 17 Non-Catch Fishing Mortality. Add a sentence prior to the last sentence of the paragraph that reads “Special attention needs to be paid to mid- and long-term mortality.”

Coastal Pelagic Fishery Management Plan

- Page 22 First bullet. Replace “in northern and southern end of range” with “throughout its range.”

Marine Reserves

- Page 26 3rd para. Delete “five”.
- Add a new first bullet: “Identify type and scale of information needed to conduct stock assessments after establishment of marine reserves and evaluate the feasibility and cost of collecting such information.”
- Current first bullet. Insert “and structure” after “location”.
- Subsume the current 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th bullets under an introductory sentence. “Research is needed to understand the biological effects of marine reserves and determine the extent to which ABCs would need to be modified when marine reserves are implemented, over the short and long term.”
- Page 27 Stock Assessment Models. After the last sentence, add “As part of the evaluation of marine reserves relative to the status quo, the types and scale of information needed to conduct stock assessments after establishment of reserves should be identified and the feasibility and cost of collecting such information should be analyzed.”

Page 27 Social and Economic Data Needs. In second sentence, replace “are not recorded on a fine enough scale to be useful in modeling” with “are needed on a fine enough scale to model”. Replace 3rd and 4th sentences with “Information is also needed on the extent of displacement of fishing activity from the reserve and the extent to which effort is diverted to other fisheries.”

Page 29 Recreational Harvester and Site Specific Demand. In first sentence, replace “the changes in CPUE (if CPUE predictions could be made)” with “site-specific closures”.

Offsite Nonconsumptive Values. Change “bequeathal” to “bequest.” Delete 3rd sentence.

Add “Other Marine Related Industries. Inventory and assess dependence of businesses supporting commercial and recreational fisheries as well as other ocean based activities (e.g., ecotourism.)”

PFMC
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