

**COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE
Biennial Update 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, 03/10/00

PURPOSE

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 have the best chance of influencing annual NMFS operating plans and NMFS budget requests for upcoming years.

PROCEDURES

Biennial Update Cycle

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 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 written comments to the SSC. (Item is not on Council agenda).
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.

- September After reviewing comments from the public and Council advisory entities, the Council adopts its research and data needs and economic data plan. These documents are submitted to NMFS West Coast regions and 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.
- 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, the Council may announce its intent to modify one or both documents outside the biennial process and make such a modification at its next meeting.

PFMC
2/28/02