

UPDATED RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) continually identifies research and data needs across its fishery management plans (FMPs) through a variety of processes, including stock assessment and fishery management cycles. Council Operating Procedure (COP) 12 outlines the Council's process for documenting research and data needs, updating the West Coast Fisheries Economic Data Plan, and the schedule for completing and communicating these needs to organizations which may be able to support additional research. COP 12 recommends the Council complete this process on a biennial cycle "to the extent possible within its workload priorities." The schedule for this process is designed to begin in an odd numbered year with a draft document for review by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) in April of the following even year and culminates with Council final approval in September and transmittal in December.

The Council last updated its Research and Data Needs document and the West Coast Fisheries Economic Data Plan in 2000 for the years 2000-2002. Due to heavy workload, this process was tabled in 2004. In 2006, although the Council's workload remains high, the Council directed the SSC to draft an abbreviated documentation of the Council's research and data needs that remain from the 2000 process and identify priority items that have emerged since then.

The SSC discussed a revised schedule for the 2006 process at its April and June 2006 meetings. Upon initiation, the 2006 process was well behind the normal schedule. Therefore, Council staff and the SSC developed a truncated process to facilitate a summary document in 2006. This truncated schedule began in April 2006 with discussions of timing, document format and content, and a compilation of recently identified research and data needs. In June 2006, the SSC assigned each SSC Subcommittee Chair the task of reviewing and compiling recent research and data needs and drafting a corresponding section of the 2006 document. Each SSC subcommittee chair drafted a section that (1) describes the current status of the highest priority needs for an FMP as identified in the Executive Summary of the Research and Data Needs 2000-2002 document, (2) addresses continuing issues, and (3) identifies important emerging issues not covered in the 2000 document. In addition to the existing sections on groundfish, salmon, coastal pelagic species, and marine reserves, a new section was created for the relatively new FMP for Highly Migratory Species and the marine reserves section was expanded to include emerging issues associated with ecosystem based fishery management.

The resulting draft summary documentation of Research and Data Needs for 2006-2008 (Agenda Item B.6.a, Attachment 1) is included for review by the Council, its advisory bodies, and the public. The Council is scheduled to adopt a draft document for public review between the September and November Council meetings. A final draft will be included in the November 2006 briefing book. If the Council approves a final document at its November 2006 meeting, it will be submitted to various organizations in December 2006.

Reference materials include the Research and Data Needs and West Coast Fisheries Economic Data Plan documents from the 2000 process (Agenda Item B.6.1, Attachment 2 and Attachment 3). Additionally, September 2006 Informational Report 3, *Social Science in the PFM Process* would also serve as a useful reference in the development of the final 2006 Research and Data Needs document.

Council Action:

Approve Draft Research and Data Needs, 2006-2008 Document for Public Review.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item B.6.a, Attachment 1: Draft Research and Data Needs, 2006-2008.
2. Agenda Item B.6.a, Attachment 2: Research and Data Needs, 2000-2002.
3. Agenda Item B.6.a, Attachment 3: West Coast Fisheries Economic Data Plan, 2000-2002.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Approve for Public Review

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