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From: **Richard Merrick - NOAA Federal** <richard.merrick@noaa.gov>

Date: Wed, Aug 5, 2015 at 8:03 AM

Subject: Stock Assessment Prioritizations

To: _Regional Councils, Commissions, Regions, and Science Centers

To All:

I want you to be aware that NOAA Fisheries announces today the release of a new stock assessment prioritization system described in the report "Prioritizing Fish Stock Assessments".

NOAA Fisheries, in partnership with the Councils and Commissions, manages approximately 500 fish stocks. Resources available to assess these stocks are limited. This system relies on regional expertise from scientists and managers as well as quantitative data on each stock, much of which is already available in national/regional databases. This prioritization system will help guide planning decisions for upcoming stock assessment cycles. We continue to look for ways to strengthen and streamline the fishery management process while using the best available science to manage fisheries in the United States. We look forward to working with you to build on our efforts to further strengthen the sustainability of U.S. fisheries.

Visit the NOAA Fisheries website:

<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/stock-assessment/stock-assessment-prioritization>

for more details and the tech memo. Additional supporting information is available online through the Office of Science and Technology.

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Roles in Prioritization Process

