

## RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS DOCUMENT – PRELIMINARY DRAFT

The 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. As a routine matter on roughly a 5-year cycle, the Council documents priority research and data needs and communicates these needs to organizations which may be able to support additional research. At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to review and comment on an initial review draft of the Research and Data Needs document (Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1) and consider adopting a public review version of the document.

The Council last approved a Research and Data Needs document in 2013. Council Operating Procedure 12 outlines a two-meeting (June/September) Council process for updating research and data needs. The Council is scheduled to adopt a final version of the Research and Data Needs document at their September meeting in Seattle, WA.

Section 302(h)(7) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) states that Regional Fishery Management Councils shall:

*“develop, in conjunction with the scientific and statistical committee, multi-year research priorities for fisheries, fisheries interactions, habitats, and other areas of research that are necessary for management purposes, that shall establish priorities for 5-year periods; be updated as necessary; and be submitted to the Secretary and the regional science centers of the National Marine Fisheries Service for their consideration in developing research priorities and budgets for the region of the Council.”*

The Research and Data Needs document, when adopted in its final form by the Council at the September 2018 Council meeting, is intended to record and communicate the Council’s research and data needs through 2023 to ensure continued well-informed Council decision-making into the future and to fulfill the Council’s responsibilities under the MSA.

### **Council Action:**

**Adopt an Updated Research and Data Needs Document for Public Review.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1: Draft 2018 Research and Data Needs (**Electronic Only**).

### **Agenda Order:**

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| C.4 | Research and Data Needs Document – Preliminary Draft                                       | John DeVore |
| a.  | Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies                            |             |
| b.  | Public Comment   |             |
| c.  | <b>Council Action:</b> Adopt an Updated Research and Data Needs Document for Public Review |             |