

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS DOCUMENT – PRELIMINARY REVIEW

The Habitat Committee (HC) appreciates the opportunity to provide input on habitat research priorities for the five-year update of the Research and Data Needs document. Habitat research priorities are identified in most sections of the document, concordant with mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

The HC recommends that the document be streamlined and better prioritized. Other Councils have used tabular formats and color coding that may be a useful model for redesigning the document. Moving forward, future iterations of the document would benefit from criteria used to prioritize research and data needs, and instructions for advisory bodies for contributing to this process.

In addition, the document includes several habitat priorities (e.g., habitat mapping, nursery habitats, biogenic bycatch, fishing impacts, species-habitat associations) that are repeated in multiple sections. Because these research priorities meet multiple research objectives, they should be considered “high” priority, yet they are currently not flagged as such because there is no mechanism to do so. An Appendix that indexes high priority research needs in a simple table format (i.e., topic title and Section number(s)) would serve this purpose.

PFMC  
6/08/18