

RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS DOCUMENT – FINAL ADOPTION

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.

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.”

In June, the Council adopted a public review version of the document, which incorporated the [recommendations and comments provided by the Council’s Ecosystem Workgroup \(EWG\)](#). The revised version of the Research and Data Needs document with the EWG-recommended changes is provided in Agenda Item F.1, Attachment 1. The Council is scheduled to adopt a final version of the Research and Data Needs document at this meeting.

The Research and Data Needs document, when adopted in its final form by the Council, 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 a Final Research and Data Needs Document.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.1, Attachment 1: Draft 2018 Research and Data Needs (**Electronic Only**).
2. Agenda Item F.1.b, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

F.1 Research and Data Needs Document – Final Adoption

John DeVore

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt a Final Research and Data Needs Document