

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
LEGISLATIVE MATTERS, INCLUDING THE MODERNIZING RECREATIONAL
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT REPORT TO CONGRESS

As required by the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018, the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Science and Technology has prepared a report to Congress: “Section 201 of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Act”, which focuses on the incorporation of data collected by state and nongovernmental organizations to inform recreational fisheries management. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is providing comments on the draft report, as requested by the Council and NOAA Fisheries.

John DeVore presented a summary of the report and Daniel Studd (Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] West Coast Region) was present to answer questions.

The SSC could comment only on the current state of the West Coast region data gaps. The NMFS West Coast Region already provides guidelines and review procedures for data collected by state agencies and nongovernmental organizations. The SSC notes that a comprehensive summary of research priorities and data needs that might better inform a revised version of the report to Congress should be based on the existing [PFMC Research and Data Needs Report](#), which provides a comprehensive list. The SSC would like to highlight some important data and procedure needs. First, the SSC noted that the data needs and procedures for inclusion in management are similar for recreational and commercial fisheries, as management of both relies on data-informed stock assessments to make decisions. Therefore, any data included in stock assessments is of great importance. In general, for nearshore recreational species, there is a lack of fishery-independent sampling data and of catch index and age composition data. In terms of process for incorporating data, the SSC highlighted that in the West Coast region, methodology reviews are performed independently to the stock assessment process, and that having pre-assessment data review workshops would be a more robust way to identify new data sources and to ensure that the data are used correctly.

The SSC is willing to evaluate and review a future version of the report that includes more detailed information about the PFMC data needs and methodology to include nongovernmental and state data.

PFMC
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