

RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS UPDATE

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act or MSA) mandates each regional fishery management council develop, in conjunction with the scientific and statistical committee (SSC), multi-year research priorities for fisheries, fisheries interactions, habitats, and other areas of research that are necessary for management purposes. The mandate is to develop priorities for research and data needs for five-year periods and provides councils with the flexibility to update these priorities as often as necessary.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) and the SSC are developing a database that captures priorities for research and data needs. [Informational Report 3](#) in the November 2020 briefing book provides a general overview of progress in database development. The database is being populated with research projects and priorities as provided in the [2018 Research and Data Needs document](#) and is modelled after the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Research and Data Needs [database](#). Further details on the database structure and possible modifications will be provided by staff during the agenda item overview.

The SSC-led database development team is soliciting feedback from the Council on possible modifications to the database and guidance on how to solicit future research projects and their recommended priorities from the Council and its advisors. The team offers considerations for changes to the future Council process of determining research priorities. The prototype database captures Council and SSC priorities. The Council could choose to solicit research priority recommendations from other advisory bodies directly in the database or through periodic recommendations to the Council and SSC in a formal Council process, which could occur more frequently than once every five years. Council Operating Procedure 12 ([COP12](#)) specifies the current three-meeting process used every five years to update research and data needs priorities, while also allowing out-of-cycle modifications to the process. The new database is anticipated to be ready for use later this year.

The Council should provide guidance to the development team on the database structure and how/if they would like to use the database to capture future advisory body recommendations. The SSC and other advisory bodies are expected to provide their recommendations on the design and use of the new research and data needs database.

Council Action:

Provide guidance on the development of a research and data needs database.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1.a, EWG Report 1.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- H.1 Research and Data Needs Update John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Provide Guidance on the Development of a Research and Data Needs Database and Provide Guidance

PFMC
03/22/21