COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON RESEARCH AND
DATA NEEDS UPDATE

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species
Advisory Subpanel received a presentation from Mr. John DeVore on the progress of the Pacific
Fishery Management Council's (Council) Research and Data Needs Database. The database is
being designed based on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's research priorities
publicly accessible database (https://research.psmfc.org). The CPSMT thanks Mr. DeVore for the
very comprehensive update on current design, implementation, and the requests for feedback from
advisory bodies. The CPSMT also thanks the efforts of the development team.

The CPSMT supports the development of the database as a repository of research needs for all
Fishery Management Plans with rankings that will aid the Council in identifying and prioritizing
research and data needs. A central database with ranked data needs that is easily searchable for the
public should also facilitate prioritization of research projects for partners including fisheries
science centers and academic researchers.

The CPSMT appreciates the opportunity to comment and recommends the following design and
process elements.

Database Design
- Highly recommend the proposed inclusion of fields in the database for advisory body
  recommendations and rankings in addition to the SSC-determined priorities. The concept
  that each advisory body should rank research and data needs for its Fishery Management
  Plan and the ecosystem Fishery Ecosystem Plan as proposed in the briefing (Slide 6) and
  in Informational Report 3, November 2020 seems appropriate.
- Include the institution or agency and contact person for anticipated or ongoing research.
- If available, include links to completed research.
- Add timestamp capability to indicate when a research project is added and when it is
  modified. This may facilitate managing database content and allow flagging of projects
  that have resided in the database and have not been taken up.
- Regarding ranking of research priorities, the CPSMT prefers a simple ranking system that
  uses "High" and "Unranked" as categories to set priorities. However, the CPSMT also sees
  value in a system similar to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's research
  database that describes research needs and projects with more specificity, e.g., "Critical
  Ongoing Monitoring" and "Urgent." The CPSMT would support consideration of a hybrid
  approach, as also suggested by the Habitat Committee.

Process and Frequency
- Recommend the SSC eliminate duplication before entering research and data needs into
  the database, to facilitate consideration for prioritization.
- Determine research priorities every other year rather than every five years.

- The CPSMT recommends the Council consider a process where it would decide on its priority research and data needs for each Fishery Management Plan after hearing recommendations from its advisory bodies on rankings.

Finally, the CPSMT recommends that a functional prototype of the database be made available to the Council advisory bodies for preliminary testing. The CPSMT anticipates that once advisory bodies have had a chance to utilize the prototype database, more detailed input on useful changes to the design and query capabilities will be forthcoming.

PFMC
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