

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS UPDATE

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) received an overview of the update on the research and data needs database being developed from Mr. John Devore of Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff and offer the following thoughts for Council consideration.

The GMT is supportive of the efforts to move the current 240-page document containing the list of research and data needs into an electronic database. A query-able database should reduce duplication in the list and increase accessibility. Members of the GMT look forward to learning about the database's functionality and specifically how to query the data.

Currently, research and data needs are reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Council every five years. Mr. DeVore asked the GMT for input on the frequency of reviews and specifically if they should increase. Transforming the list of research and data needs into a query-able database will hopefully streamline the records and should make more frequent reviews possible. However the frequency of review should be weighed against the workload of the Council and SSC, as well as other advisory bodies. From the groundfish perspective, conducting the review during the non-stock assessment (even) years may be more feasible for SSC members and stock assessors. Additionally, any new recommendations from the previous year's stock assessments could be considered. However, the GMT and Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) are very busy during even years working on biennial harvest specifications and management measures. If reviews become more frequent, scheduling will need to take into account the timing of other Council and advisory body requirements and priorities, in addition to the overall workload.

Finally, the proposed database includes fields for only the SSC to provide input on priorities or recommendations. The GMT recommends a process, and associated database column(s), be developed to document and incorporate input from the appropriate management team and advisory subpanel (e.g., GMT and GAP for groundfish items). The workflow should specify if input would be provided directly to the SSC, or via the Council to the SSC. The GMT does not currently have a recommendation, but can work with Council staff and/or SSC members to define that process.

PFMC
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