

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS UPDATE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received a presentation from Mr. John DeVore (Pacific Fisheries Management Council, PFMC) regarding the proposed design and implementation of the PFMC's Research and Data Needs Database, then discussed some aspects of how the database could be managed. The prototype of this database was described in the November 2020 Briefing Book ([Informational Report 3](#)). It is modeled after a database used by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) with fields adjusted for PFMC needs and populated with items from the [2018 PFMC Research and Data Needs document](#). The SSC discussion focused on three topics: (A) the process for adding new items to the database, (B) the ranking system for prioritizing research projects in the database, and (C) the frequency with which the database should be reviewed and updated.

The SSC recommends that the Research and Data Needs database be curated by the SSC. Additions to the database could arise from within the SSC (e.g., during the stock assessment review process) or be proposed to the SSC by other Council Advisory Bodies. Within the database, the SSC agreed that projects should be prioritized based on whether they have a 'high' priority for having a substantial impact on management decisions, with others left unranked. Further, the SSC recommends that the number of 'high priority' projects on the list at any given time be kept relatively small, so that it is a meaningful prioritization system. The SSC also discussed the possibility of accounting for the time sensitivity of each high priority item, distinguishing between urgent and longer-term needs. The SSC further recommends that the database be updated with new prioritized projects more often than the current 5-year re-evaluation cycle, at regularly scheduled intervals. This will allow more efficient responses to emerging needs. Council Operating Procedure 12 ([COP12](#)) currently mandates a 5-year cycle but allows exceptions for out-of-cycle updates, so the SSC proposal would not necessarily require updating COP12 at this time.

PFMC  
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