DEVELOPING THE PACIFIC COUNCIL'S RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS DATABASE

Proposed Design and Process Considerations

Overview

- Description of the Prototype Database is available in [Informational Report 3](#) in the November 2020 Briefing Book

- MSA Mandate for Determining Research Priorities

- Proposed Structure of the Database

- Options for Determining Priorities of Research Projects

- Considerations for Advisory Body Input

MSA Mandate for Determining Research Priorities

Regional Fishery Management Councils shall:

"develop, in conjunction with the scientific and statistical committee, multi-year research priorities for fisheries, fisheries interactions, habitats, and other areas of research that are necessary for management purposes, that shall establish priorities for 5-year periods; be updated as necessary; and be submitted to the Secretary and the regional science centers of the National Marine Fisheries Service for their consideration in developing research priorities and budgets for the region of the Council."

Proposed Structure of the Database

- The database is modeled after the [R&D Needs database](#) used by the NPFMC.
- Database fields capture the intent of the [2018 R&D Needs document](#).
- Each record is a research project and the title field contains a descriptive title of the project.
- Each field has a drop-down menu of choices.
- New fields or menu choices can be modified to best suit the PFMC process.
- Keywords and Boolean field searches allow for quick filtering of research projects.

Proposed Fields in the Database

Title	Research Focus (FMP, FEP, Other)	Source Documentation	Area	Keywords	Council Action	Research Status	Council Priorities	SSC Priorities
Descriptive title of the research project	Coastal Pelagic Species Ecosystem Groundfish Highly Migratory Species Salmon Social Sciences	Rich text field to enable hyperlinks to archived documents with context for the research or data need	Designation where an area-specific research project will occur defined by current management boundaries	Customized to aid in searches (e.g., species name, stock assessment, trawl survey)	How results from a research project are anticipated to be used by the Council (e.g., a new survey designed to inform future harvest specifications)	Pending No action Listed on RFPs Partially underway Underway Completed	High Medium Low (Unranked) **Should there be a different ranking system?**	High Medium Low (Unranked) Admin rights* to add research projects; Admin rights* to prioritize all projects

* Admin rights granted to SSC Subcommittee Chairs and Council staff on behalf of the SSC.

Potential Fields in the Database

CPSMT Priorities	EWG Priorities	GMT Priorities	HMSMT Priorities	STT Priorities	Other Council Advisory Bodies?
Admin rights* to prioritize CPS & Ecosystem projects (H, M, L)	Admin rights* to prioritize Ecosystem projects (H, M, L)	Admin rights* to prioritize GF & Ecosystem projects (H, M, L)	Admin rights* to prioritize HMS & Ecosystem projects (H, M, L)	Admin rights* to prioritize Salmon & Ecosystem projects (H, M, L)	Admin rights* to prioritize Relevant FMP & Ecosystem projects (H, M, L)

* Admin rights granted to Council staff for each AB they serve.

Determining Priorities

- Council priorities are determined through a Council process and is informed by recommendations from the SSC and other ABs
  - o Council and SSC priorities (H, M, L and unranked) are captured in the database
  - o Council staff and SSC subcommittee chairs have administrative rights to add projects to the database and set priorities
- Other AB priorities can be captured in the database or continue to be solicited in a Council meeting process
  - o If captured in the database, Council staff for the AB would have administrative rights to set priorities for the appropriate FMP

Considerations for Advisory Body Recommendations on the Database Structure

- Are there any recommended modifications to the proposed database structure? How should unranked research projects be captured in the database? Should the SSC remove duplications?

- How Should the Council Solicit AB Priority Recommendations?
    - o Solicit priorities at Council meetings?
    - o Recommend priorities to the SSC as an initial step?
    - o Determine AB priorities directly in the database?
    - o Should we simplify the ranking system?

- Should Research Priorities Be Determined More Frequently than Once Every Five Years?

Next Steps

- The database is anticipated to be populated with the 2018 research projects by the end of June.
- The development team is prepared to make whatever structural changes to the database desired by the Council.
- The Council could schedule another meeting to provide further guidance and consider new research and data needs projects as early as this fall.
- COP12 may need revision with a change in the Council process for selecting and prioritizing future research and data needs projects. However, COP12 is flexible with the out-of-cycle exception.