

RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 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 Council is scheduled to prioritize new and existing research and data needs next year using a new database, which has been populated with the prioritized research and data needs decided in 2018. The Council task under this agenda item is to make final decisions on the database structure and the process for updating the database to capture new research and data needs and their priorities.

The Council received a [briefing](#) at their April 2021 meeting on development of the Research and Data Needs database. The Council provided guidance to 1) include a “Habitat” category to the Research Focus field in the database, 2) capture all future advisory body priority recommendations in the database, and 3) use the priority ranking system recommended by the SSC. The Council also supported a future process of deciding research priorities every 2-3 years rather than every 5 years. Some, but not all, the requested structural changes have been made to the database. Ms. Meisha Key, under contract with the Council, has produced a [video](#) demonstrating the structure and illustrating how to navigate the database. She will be on hand to answer any questions the Council may have on the database structure.

The Council should consider the recommendations of the SSC and other advisors before deciding the intended process to update research and data needs.

Council Action:

- 1. Approve a new format for the Research and Data Needs database.**
- 2. Approve a process for updating the database and communicating priorities.**

Reference Materials:

1. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

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| C.1 | Research and Data Needs | John DeVore |
| a. | Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| b. | Public Comment | |
| c. | Council Action: Review and Approve a New Format and Discuss a Process for Updating and Communicating the Database | |