

GROUND FISH ADVISORY PANEL REPORT ON
RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the Scientific and Statistical Committee SSC Report (Agenda Item C.1.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, September 2022) and other documents under this agenda item and offers the following comments and recommendations.

In general, the GAP supports the effort to revise the protocols for research and data prioritization, as well as the effort to update the database to make it more efficient and user-friendly. The GAP also supports the specific prior Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) 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. Prioritizing key research and data needs that can inform better management choices is critical for the continued evolution of profitable and sustainable fisheries on the West Coast.

With regard to the SSC recommendations, the GAP agrees that developing a simple way for interested parties to submit project proposals to the Council and SSC would be an important improvement. The GAP also supports SSC efforts to develop an efficient and informative ranking system.

The GAP supports this effort to make the research and data needs of the Council and fisheries managers more accessible to the broader research community so that they might be able to include these Council priorities as supporting rationale for project proposals. It could serve as a fundamental guide to their selection of research topics.

PFMC
09/08/22