

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) was updated by Ms. Meisha Key (Key Coaching and Development) on the ongoing construction of the Research and Data Needs Database. The SSC appreciates the hard work of Ms. Key and the development team. This database offers many improvements over the current report.

Some of the key tasks for the SSC at this stage are (1) to determine processes for adding projects and setting the SSC ranking, (2) establishing definitions for the ranking categories, and (3) dealing with duplicates and overlapping projects. The SSC intends to finish these tasks before the planned 2023 update to the list of Research and Data Needs.

The SSC proposes that a jot form, or similar interface, with fields that mirror the format of the database be developed for interested parties to submit project proposals to the Council and SSC. Future discussions can determine how these submissions are reviewed. A process for ranking projects needs to be developed and discussion of this likely needs to be had at both the SSC and the SSC subcommittee level.

The SSC notes that the ranking of high priority and/or high urgent priority quickly becomes watered down if it is overused. The SSC will consider the ranking system used by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council ([Research Priorities Terms Definitions \(current\).pdf \(npfmc.org\)](https://www.npfmc.org)) and develop suggested definitions or guidelines for SSC ranking. High and/or urgent rankings were noted by many SSC members as being helpful for procuring funding for new and ongoing projects and the SSC considers it important to explore ways to communicate which ongoing projects are critical for fisheries management in addition to encouraging needed new projects.

Ms. Key has cataloged current Research and Data Needs projects that appear to be duplicates of, or are closely related to, other entries. The SSC agreed that the appropriate SSC subcommittees could review these related projects before the end of the year and either combine duplicates into one entry or add explanations to differentiate between apparently similar or overlapping projects.

PFMC
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