

## RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS – FINAL ACTION

According to the [Magnuson-Stevens Act](#), the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is required to review research and data needs and provide a list of the Council’s priorities to support the management of U.S. west coast fisheries. This list is important for the Council’s partner agencies (e.g. Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers, state fish and wildlife agencies, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and other public/private/academic entities) that may be able to help fill research and data gaps.

In November 2024, the Council adopted science and management challenges to guide in identifying preliminary research and data needs (descriptions provided in [Agenda Item D.3, Supplemental SSC Report 1, November 2024](#)).

### Science and Management Challenges:

- Data collection
- Stock assessment methodologies
- Life history and stock structure
- Evaluating fishery impacts
- Ecosystem dynamics
- Harvest policy
- Economic and social science
- Habitat science and spatial management

The term “challenge” can be thought of as a high-level research need that stretches across more than one fishery management plan (FMP) and for which multiple research topics or data gaps can be identified. These high-level challenges were an initial step to communicate prioritization of areas where research is needed to advance Council objectives.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) then identified preliminary research and data need recommendations ([Agenda Item C.2, SSC Report 1, April 2025](#)). The Council adopted their preliminary research and data needs in April 2025, which included the SSC recommendations and the edits and recommendations from other Advisory Body reports. Council guidance also noted prioritization of the continued implementation and execution of those scientific activities that support the fundamentals of fishery management off the U.S. west coast.

Attachment 1 represents the Council preliminary research and data need priorities for review and consideration for final action at this meeting. The preliminary list could be refined, if needed, and a final research and data needs list is scheduled to be adopted. The vision when the Council’s research and data needs process has concluded is a relatively small set of science and management challenges and a list of specific research and data needs within each, which could be pursued as potential solutions to those challenges.

### **Council Action:**

#### **1. Adopt Final Research and Data Needs.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.3, Attachment 1: Research and Data Needs - Council Preliminary Priorities.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- D.3      Research and Data Needs – Final Action Marlene A. Bellman
- a.   Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b.   Public Comment
  - c.   **Council Action:** Adopt Final Research and Data Needs

PFMC  
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