

# SSC Report to NEFMC

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**Chair, NEFMC SSC**

**Council meeting**  
**April 17, 2019**



New England  
Fishery Management Council

# Overview

- Presentation will cover SSC webinar held on March 29, 2019
- Will cover second agenda item
- Will conclude with a summary of the SSC recommendations



# SSC Review of Council's Draft 5-year Research Priority/Data Needs

- SSC received a presentation on the research priorities developed by the Council
- SSC noted that progress had been made on these priorities since the last review (2017)
  - Council had adopted some of the SSC's previous suggestions
- Grouping into defined categories, and use of the spreadsheet format made examination and review easy



# SSC Review of Council's Draft 5-year Research Priority/Data Needs

- SSC feedback
  - Priorities defined as urgent could be further refined by highlighting those that apply to multiple species and have not been addressed through any research
    - Could then be identified as the highest priority items and added to a cover letter to highlight above the other items



# SSC Review of Council's Draft 5-year Research Priority/Data Needs

- SSC feedback
  - Cross cutting issues are important and should receive special attention
    - When only looking at specific stocks or assessments, it is easy to miss systemic issues
  - Upon review of other Council priority lists, the MAFMC approach was noted as one that seemed an effective approach



# SSC Review of Council's Draft 5-year Research Priority/Data Needs

- SSC feedback
  - SSC also has research recommendations, perhaps these could be provided to the PDTs
  - Developing research priorities is a substantial undertaking, would be useful to define how it's used to assess its effectiveness in initiating and funding needed research
    - Would help in creating the lists to target research in effective/constructive ways



# SSC Review of Council's Draft 5-year Research Priority/Data Needs

- SSC feedback
  - There was limited inclusion of social science priorities and, in cases where it was identified, they are longer term, therefore likely to receive lesser consideration
  - Some of the social science items identified should be reprioritized
    - SSC is willing to offer more detail on which items could be reprioritized if wished



# SSC Review of Council's Draft 5-year Research Priority/Data Needs

- SSC feedback, gap analysis
  - Allocation issues that arise from stocks with shifting distribution due to climate change
  - Reducing bycatch (as presented in the letter from the SAFMC to the MAFMC and NEFMC)
  - Addressing physiological aspects of species as they relate to climate change





# SSC Review of Council's Draft 5-year Research Priority/Data Needs

- SSC feedback, gap analysis
  - “Human Dimensions” can fit in many of the existing priorities, All priorities could be re-evaluated with regard to the Human Dimension broad category, so this does not get missed
- Many of the items offered were previously offered by the SSC; If the Council wanted, a subgroup of the SSC could be convened to address these previously mentioned issues



# Summary

- The SSC provided comment on the Council's research priorities, generally:
  - SSC appreciates the progress made on the priorities since the last review
  - Identified gaps:
    - allocation issues from shifting stock distributions
    - bycatch reduction research
    - reviewing social and economic research priorities
  - Priorities could undergo additional vetting to highlight the highest priorities across FMPs and species, especially if not yet addressed

