

NEFMC Research Priorities and Data Needs for 2021-2025

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**Scientific & Statistical
Committee
June 8, 2021**



SSC discussion focus

- Comment on the content of the draft 2021-2025 research priorities:
 - Does the SSC agree with the recommendations for revisions made to date by the FMP committees?
 - Should any priorities be further revised?
 - Should there be any additions to or deletions from the list?

In 2020, the SSC made several process recommendations. As described in the June 1 staff memo, the Council has made some changes and is still considering others. Today, the priorities themselves needs to be the focus of the SSC's discussion.



Research priority setting directive

MSFCMA 109-497

Each Council shall...

“Section 302 (h) Each Council shall develop, in conjunction with the scientific and statistical committee, multi-year research priorities for fisheries, fishery interactions, habitats, and other areas of research that are necessary for management purposes that shall –

- A. establish priorities for 5-year periods;
- B. be updated as necessary; and
- C. be submitted to the Secretary and the regional science centers of the National Marine Fisheries Service for their consideration in developing research priorities and budgets for the region of the Council.”



Update approval process (annual)

Steps

- Updates proposed by PDTs.
- Advisory Panels may recommend updates.
- Committees review PDT and AP input.
- Staff compile proposed updates from Committees for SSC review.
- Proposed updates and SSC input presented to Council for approval.
- Approved updates submitted to NOAA Fisheries.

What needs Council approval?

- Adding or deleting a priority or other major change.

What does not need Council approval?

- Clarifications to existing priorities.
- Adding in Council-approved Research Set-Aside priorities.



Reading the spreadsheet

- Tracking proposed revisions
 - **Red = proposed deletion**
 - **Green = proposed addition**
 - **Blue = comment or rationale for change**
- The “Notes” (column J) include:
 - Starting in 2019, the year the priority was added.
 - Notes on if and how NEFSC is addressing the priority.
 - Links/references to supporting research (see also “References” tab).
- The “References” tab includes full citations included in the Notes.



The final list for 2020-2024

- The 2020-2024 list had **108** priorities, including the SSC recommendations:
 - Include productivity and recruitment effects of climate change (added to an existing priority, #101).
 - Add aquaculture to the wind research topics (added to #104, 106, 107) .
 - Combine some topics (2 merges in addition to the 5 recommended by FMP committees).
 - Add 5 human dimensions priorities:
 - Organizational theory, collaboration, and trust (#41)
 - Environmental justice and engagement (#43)
 - Economic impacts of the allocation of yellowtail flounder on the scallop fleet (#45)
 - Supplement NEFSC surveys of owners and crew (#80)
 - Improve social science indicators (#81)



Developing 2021-2025 updates

- In 2021, FMP Committees are recommending **109**:
 - Updates regarding skates, herring, scallops, habitat.
 - 33 modifications and one new priority on scallop population structure.
 - No updates regarding small-mesh multispecies, monkfish, EBFM, groundfish.

Unchanged	75
Modified	33
New	1
Total proposed	109

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