



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Council Research Priorities

## Coordination with Science Centers

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# BOTTOM LINE(S) UP FRONT

- NMFS staff participate in the Councils' teams/committees where research priorities are defined and discussed. As such, NMFS staff are involved in the development of the priorities, and also implementation.
- NMFS Geographic Strategic plans include broad and specific research goals and many overlap with Council research priorities.
- Given multiple regional priorities: Councils, Centers, ROs, Commissions, NPRB, etc., increased discussion and coordination of priorities – across all bodies – would benefit all.
- Formalize the request for Science Centers, jointly with ROs, to comment on Council priorities.

# RESPONSE/STATUS FROM NWFSC & SWFSCs, SEFSC, NEFSC

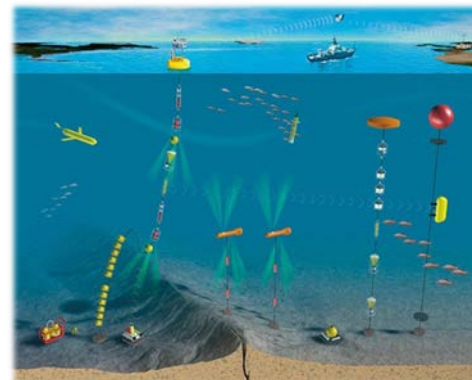
- **NWFSC and SWFSC** had recent discussions with PFMC staff about collaborating & identifying research priorities in advance of the PFMC research priority plan update in 2023.
- **SEFSC** uses the three Council research plans to help guide their priority based resourcing decisions and to inform the regional strategic plan.
- **NEFSC**
  - reviews the Council's research priorities when developing their annual guidance memorandum (AGM).
  - identifies Council research priorities in their internal RFPs and awards points for proposed projects that address Council priorities.

# RESPONSE/STATUS FROM PIFSC & AFSC

- **PIFSC** uses the Council's 5-year research priorities in their strategic and annual planning processes, including:
  - When drafting and reviewing the PIFSC Science Plan (2019-2023).
  - When developing the AGM and the activity plans.
  - Meet annually with Council staff to discuss how the Center is addressing the research priorities.
- **AFSC**
  - are engaged in the development of NPFMC research priorities through Plan Teams and SSC.
  - uses the NPFMC research priorities to inform the AGM and activity plan prioritization process.

# Possible steps to bridge current gaps in priorities' discussion

- Formalize discussions within and across Councils, taking advantage of participation of NMFS staff on SSCs, MTs and other Council bodies.
- Develop feedback mechanisms from NMFS to Councils on how Council research priorities are used.
- Increase collaboration where regional goals align and use NMFS Geographic Strategic plans to inform Council research priorities.
- Science Center and Council staff commit to working far in advance of Council research priority plan development/updates.



Thank you  
Questions/Comments?

