

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Eric A. Olson, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director



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June 19, 2014

Mr. William Michaels
Fisheries Service, Office of Science and Technology
1315 East-West Highway, F/ST4
Silver Springs, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Michaels:

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council has identified priorities for research, over the next 1 to 5 years, as those activities that are the most important for the conservation and management of fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska, Aleutian Islands, eastern Bering Sea, and the Arctic. This listing of priorities has two purposes: 1) to meet the requirements of the revised Magnuson-Stevens Act for the Councils to identify research that is needed in the next 5 years, and 2) to provide guidance on research priorities to the research community and funding agencies. Research priorities are organized into four categories (critical, high, medium, and low), but within each category, are in no particular order of importance.

The research priorities identified this year are identical to those adopted last June, for 2013 to 2017. The Council chose to carry over the research priorities identified last year, as they considered that the priorities expressed in 2013 are still current. Additionally, some of the materials that the Council would otherwise have used to revise the priorities were not available at the time of Council action, due to implementation issues with the transition of the Council's research priority list to a relational database system accessed through a web portal. The use of the database and website will allow the Council to track more information relative to each research priority in the future. The research priorities are currently accessible through the new website, <https://research.psmfc.org/>, although improvements to the report format continue to be developed.

The Council continues to highlight several current Council initiatives that are of high priority, and notes the research priorities that specifically relate to these initiatives:

- 1) Build Integrated Ecosystem Management capabilities
Related research priorities: 110, 125, 142, 194, 198, 200, 203, 204, 205, 216, and 217.
- 2) Facilitate Council efforts to reduce impacts to chinook salmon
Related research priorities: 119, 120, 184 and 188.
- 3) Increase knowledge of SSL fishery interactions and population dynamics
Related research priorities: 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 182 and 310.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Oliver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Oliver
Executive Director