



NOAA Fisheries

**Protected Resources Requirements Planning Update for State
Marine Fisheries Directors**

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April 1, 2003





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- **Mission: Stewardship of living Marine resources for the benefit of the Nation through science-based conservation and management and promotion of the health of the environment**
- **Objective of requirements planning: Science and information to make better informed conservation program decisions for success and decrease the litigation trend, all with due consideration of impacts to communities**
- **NRC Report on Science and NOAA Fisheries (2002): Listed five areas of science identified as inadequate that may have been responsible for increased litigation**



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NRC p. 6

- **Development of research plans and analysis relevant to MMPA and ESA mandates**
- **Collection and analysis of spatial data to meet the needs of managing using spatial models, MPAs, and essential fish habitat**
- **Development of new models with multispecies interactions, trophic structure, and ecosystem effects**
- **Development of analytical techniques that link social and economic data to biological data**
- **Linking market and non-market values w/ management scenario**



“High quality science, data, and models are essential for NMFS to meet its increasing regulatory responsibilities.” (NRC, 2002, p. 12)





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Objective of Requirements/ Stock Assessment Improvement Plan (SAIP):

To provide a sound description of NOAA Fisheries protected resource mandate requirements and a sound, prioritized research plan to meet those information needs.

What resources do we have and how are they used to answer the questions we ask in our conservation programs?

What resources are required to answer these questions?

Do all species need to be at the same levels?



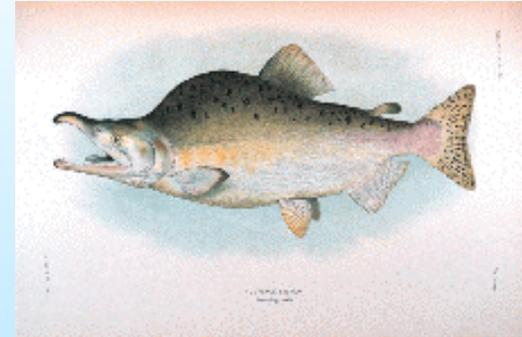
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HELD OVER FOR 2003 MEETING:

NOAA Fisheries was asked:

- To form a work group with selected state fisheries personnel, &
- To improve the integration of stock assessment and monitoring information in the Council and State fisheries management decision process.

Lessons learned would be shared with the states and other NOAA Fisheries Regions.



Action has been postponed, pending further discussions with the States on the best approach.



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Development of Tiers

- **Fish SAIP**
 - Tier 1: Improve stock assessments using existing data
 - Tier 2: Elevate to new national standards of excellence
 - Tier 3: Next generation assessments
- **Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle SAIP**
 - Tier 1: Status Quo
 - Tier 2: Elevate to new national standards of excellence
 - Tier 3: Next generation assessments



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e.g. Category: Stock I.D.

- *Within Tiers.....*

level

- No Information 0
- Structure inferred from analyses undertaken for other purposes (distribution etc) 1
- Structure inferred from an analysis specifically aimed at investigating population differentiation (genetics, tagging etc.) 2
- Structure inferred from an integrative analysis of at least two lines of evidence of the type listed in 2 3
- Estimates of dispersal rate that include estimate of uncertainty 4



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- e.g. **Demography**

Within Tiers.....

level

- **No information** **0**
- **Basic life history understood** **1**
- **Some age/stage parameters understood** **2**
- **Age/stage parameters fully specified** **3**
- **Variability in age/stage parameters understood** **4**





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Sea Turtles

Additional levels of complications:

Categories and classes will be further subdivided to evaluate trends for nesting females versus pelagic, eggs versus turtles because of the nature of sea turtle life history and data collection

e.g. There may be very good trend data for egg counts and nesting females (e.g. level 2 or 3) but a lower level of trend data for males or other pelagic phases (e.g. 0 or 1)