



NOAA
FISHERIES

HMS Research Plan

Progress Updates, Challenges,
and Open Discussion

HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
April 2014



HMS Research Plan - Purpose

NMFS developed a draft HMS Research Plan to:

- Identify key research needs to improve management
- Reduce duplication
- Prioritize limited research funding
- Form a potential basis for future funding

Challenges:

- Budget limitations
- Distributed structure



Background

- 1st draft of HMS Research Plan distributed to AP in Fall of 2012
- Draft HMS Research Plan did not meet all AP member expectations. Comments included:
 - Too broad, lacking specific recommendations
 - Internal document with little external input
 - Lack of fisheries independent research goals
 - Need to do more than just stock assessment science
 - No clear research prioritization
 - No budget estimates to achieve research goals

HMS Research Plan Progress: 2013

- Internal HMS Research Working Group formed to revise the Plan to better address objectives and prioritize available resources
- Staff from the Office of Science & Technology, NEFSC, SEFSC, & Office of Sustainable Fisheries /HMS Mgmt Division met with Dr. Merrick, Director of Scientific Programs/Chief Science Advisor, to elevate HMS research issues
- Working Group reviewed research needs and funding sources, and discussed scope of Plan (e.g., include monitoring and surveys?)
- Working Group secured funding for 2013 VIMS shark survey, the longest time series supporting the sandbar and dusky shark stock assessments

HMS Research Plan Progress: 2014

- Office of Science & Technology and HMS Mgmt Division secured funding for 2014 VIMS shark survey
- HMS Mgmt Division considering revising the Plan based on Council Research Priority Plans*
 - High-level overview of science
 - Could include basic ongoing surveys and monitoring programs
 - Focus would be on improving management and management-based science needs, not necessarily strictly science needs
 - Would not contain as many details as current draft research plan
 - Could change the purpose of the research plan

*http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/reg_svcs/Councils/ccc_2012m/TAB%206/NEFMC_Research_Priorities.pdf

*<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/rsadocs/2011-2015%20MAFMC%20Research%20Priorities.pdf>

Possible Discussion Topics

- How to balance near-term management needs (e.g., monitoring and surveys) with long-term research needs?
- What would the look, format, and content of the plan be to best describe research needs?
- What is the best way to incorporate AP input?
- What is the best way to incorporate external input?
- Other questions or concerns?

Next Steps

Possible Next Steps:

- HMS Mgmt Division to finalize draft Research Priorities Plan
- AP review of draft HMS Research Priorities Plan
- Incorporate AP comments
- Public comment period
- Finalize document

Suggestions, Questions, Concerns?