



Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Strategic Plan for Scientific and Statistical Committee

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is engaged in a Strategic Planning exercise to guide its work and membership for the next several years. The SSC advises the Council on scientific and technical matters relating to fisheries management in the Western Pacific Ocean. An **objective** of this Strategic Planning process is to focus SSC work and meetings in a manner that is better suited to addressing the unique challenges facing fishery management in the Western Pacific given evolving economic, cultural, and environmental considerations. Another **objective** of this exercise is to create a collegial environment whereby SSC members may develop, discuss and provide scientific recommendations.

In recent years, it has become clear that the rapidly evolving landscape of fishery management in the Western Pacific requires SSC members to take on a more proactive role to give greater effect to the goals and requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In view of these considerations, the following principles will guide the SSC and its actions:

1. In addition to its traditional role of reviewing technical documents and providing comments on them, the SSC will undertake special projects to inform the Council regarding the effects of fishery management actions on people, fishing communities, consumers, fishery economics, and fish and protected species populations. SSC members with expertise in these areas will be selected to work collaboratively with NMFS to further the Council's understandings in these areas. SSC members involved in special projects will lead discussions at SSC meetings over these matters and will be viewed as subject matter experts in SSC deliberations over such matters. Presentations and papers will clearly and concisely state the problem under consideration and conclude with a concise summary of conclusions.
2. Agendas for SSC meetings will be developed and focused on technical areas under consideration by the SSC, and relevant to Council meetings. The SSC will strive to avoid revisiting topics or decisions that have been previously discussed.
3. SSC members will review meeting materials in advance of SSC meetings and come prepared to meaningfully engage in discussions at SSC meetings.
4. The SSC will operate in a collaborative, consensus-based manner consistent with the proposed **Code of Conduct** provided below. SSC members shall remain professional in their dealings at all times with SSC members, presenters, and the public.
5. The SSC will review these principles on an annual basis and reassess the need for changes or additions to these principles.

Code of Conduct¹ **Scientific and Statistical Committee**

1. Rigor, honesty and integrity.

- Focus SSC deliberations on science-based issues with science-based solutions
- Act with skill, care, transparency, and rigor in all scientific work.
- Maintain up to date skills and assist their development in others.
- Take steps to prevent professional misconduct. Declare conflicts of interest.
- Be alert to the ways in which research derives from and affects the work of other people
- Respect the rights and reputations of others.

2. Respect for the law, nature, and the public good.

- Ensure that your work and research that SSC reviews is lawful, justified, and based on the best scientific information available (BSIA).
- Strive to increase the public's understanding of marine resources and their associated fisheries
- Minimize any adverse effects your work may have on fishing communities and the environment.
- Protect the rights and privacy of survey respondents and interviewees

3. Responsible communication: listening and informing.

- Seek to discuss the issues that science raises for society.
- Listen to the aspirations and concerns of others.
- Do not knowingly mislead, or allow others to be misled, about matters that come before the SSC.
- Present and review scientific evidence, theory or interpretation honestly and accurately.
- Strive to make scientific data and interpretation understandable to the public

¹ Adapted from the Royal Astronomical Society, available at <https://ras.ac.uk/membership/membership-fellows/universal-ethical-code-scientists> (last viewed 12/1/24).