



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Examine the use of Regional Council's Research and Monitoring Priorities

# MSA Requirement (Section 302(h)):

- **Councils, in collaboration with their Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC), must develop multi-year research priorities for fisheries, fishery interactions, habitats, and other management-related areas.**
- **Priorities are established for **\*\*five-year periods\*\***, updated as necessary, and submitted to the Secretary and NMFS regional science centers for consideration in research and budget planning.**

# Key Questions & Insights:

- **Use by SEFSC & SERO:** SEFSC leadership is aware of council priorities but has limited discretionary funds beyond core activities. Council priorities guide the broader research community and inform the terms of reference for specific RFPs.
- **NOFO Goals & Objectives:** These are reviewed annually, with council research and monitoring priorities helping to frame the terms of relevant RFPs (e.g., SK\*, MARFIN).

\* For SK they used to, but with AFAC, we do not have the pen anymore, although AFAC do have the ability to view them and be informed when setting priorities.