



Annual Research Prioritization for the Western Pacific Region

In lieu of an annual guidance memo (AGM) or formal process for Council feedback with PIFSC, the Council has relied on its SSC to identify annual priorities to address pressing management issues and provide those to PIFSC and PIRO following each September meeting cycle. Starting September 2024, Council staff provided to the SSC major management issues and research gaps for the following year. The SSC identified top 1-3 research priorities that it ranked among those in the Council's Five Year Research Priorities. The SSC has the opportunity to revise the Five Year Research Priorities as well in the September meeting cycle. The Council would then endorse the annual prioritization for the following year (and any revisions to the Five Year Research Priorities document) that would be sent to PIFSC and PIRO in a memo and made publicly available for external entities.

Annual Process (During FY1 to inform FY2)

- Council develops MSRA Five Year Research Priorities on a five year cycle, up for review by the FEP Plan Teams and SSC at their prerogative during the five year period.
- May FEP Plan Team Meetings FY1
 - FEP Plan Teams may identify potential research priorities that could be considered added to the Council's Five Year Research Priorities and key management issues to be prioritized in FY2
- Prior to September SSC Meeting Cycle FY1
 - Council staff provides pressing management issues anticipated for FY2; including feedback from the FEP Plan Teams;
 - and research gaps (excluding ongoing work) for those management issues along with identified potential research priorities within the most current Council Five Year Research Priorities document
- During September SSC Meeting FY1
 - SSC members are to identify top 1-3 research priorities in the MSRA Five Year Research Priorities document, by program area, to be addressed in FY2
 - SSC members are to identify the top 1-3 priorities overall for FY2
 - SSC members may request revisions to the most current Council Five Year Research Priorities document, either addition of new priorities or removal of priorities.
- Post September SSC Meeting FY1
 - Council endorses SSC annual prioritization and any potential revision to its Five Year Research Priorities document
 - Council sends a memo to PIFSC and PIRO on annual prioritization
- March SSC Meeting FY2
 - PIFSC provides status of activities addressing research priorities for FY2 to the SSC for their review, including planned activities to address Council research priorities