

Process for Proposing and Prioritizing Research Topics

This draft is based on input from the AMPC due October 16th. Note that whatever the AMPC decides about this process can be changed relatively easily later.

It is recommended that a finalized version of this document be incorporated into the AMPC charter as an appendix, where it will continue to be available in a “one-stop shop” of AMPC processes as a reference for AMPC members (especially new members). Additionally, it is recommended that as the AMPC approves the first few research questions¹ and the subsequent research agenda², a similar brief explanation of those processes be developed and integrated into the AMPC charter.

Proposing, prioritizing, and adopting research topics

1. Proposing research topics.

- a. An AMPC member or member of the public may propose an AMP research topic to ODF staff at any time. This staff will evaluate each topic for relevancy to the AMP and communicate this topic to the AMPC and record it for the AMPC’s future consideration, as appropriate. When proposing research topics, the following information is required:
 - i. The rule, Biological Goals and Objectives³, or issue the topic relates to; and,
 - ii. The outcomes and/or concerns the proposer would like to learn about.
- b. The AMPC welcomes input from the Board of Forestry regarding proposing new research topics and their associated categorization.

Commented [FT*O1]: AMPC members suggested having some criteria so there aren't oodles of nonrelevant topics proposed by the general public. I'm not adding those simply because it seems unlikely, and the "as appropriate" enables ODF staff to weed out topics that are clearly out of scope for the AMP without having to prescribe a priori a particular process.

2. Background information for discussing research topics.

To inform AMPC discussions on prioritizing research topics, ODF staff, in consultation with AMPC members and/or people who proposed the topic, will develop background material on research topics, including items such as:

- a. a summary of previous discussion(s) about the topic;
- b. categorization of existing research topics (see below);
- c. the current budget situation;
- d. status of the current research agenda (e.g., timing, awarded contracts, RFPs in development, IRST work plans); and,
- e. other relevant information including context, urgency, and need (e.g., HCP status).

Commented [TF2]: The intent here is a minimal amount (e.g., a few paragraphs) of information that helps both ODF staff and the AMPC understand what and why the person is raising the topic, rather than having to guess. It also enables ODF staff to assess it for relevancy to the AMP; also, to have narrower research topics than "amphibians" without requiring a precise research question.

3. Adopting and prioritizing research topics.

The AMPC will discuss and then adopt and/or prioritize research topics by a substantial decision using the categories below. Newly-adopted topics will be placed in Category B and the remaining topics prioritized into the following categories:

Category A. Topics in the current Research Agenda – research topics which have had a research question developed and are included in a research agenda per OAR 629-603-0200(5)(d).

¹ Per OAR 629-603-0200(3)

² Per OAR 629-603-0200(5)

³ Per OAR 629-603-0000(6)(c)

Draft 4

Category B. Topics in Development – research topics with research questions under development, to be developed soon, or submitted to the IRST for developing scoping proposals per OAR 629-603-0200(4).

Category C. Topics on Hold – research topics the AMPC deemed to be of interest but of lower priority than categories A and B, and that the AMPC will revisit in the future.

Category D. Topics Pending Review– research topics that have been proposed but that the AMPC has not yet discussed.

Category E. Topics Completed – research topics that have passed through the entire AMP process outlined in OAR 629-603-0200 and are intended to not be revisited again barring changed circumstances or Board request.

The current categorization of research topics will be made available on the AMPC website.

4. Frequency for reviewing categorizations of research topics.

The AMPC will revisit the categorizations of research topics in Section 3 at the AMPC meeting in October of odd years, starting in 2025. (*Note: this deadline will also be added to section VII of the charter*). However, the AMPC may decide *ad hoc* to reconsider categorizations, and consider adoption of a research topic, based on e.g., natural disasters, regulatory/legal issues, unforeseen circumstances, and emerging research, as well as Board recommendations or federal agency recommendations.