

SUMMARY REPORT
AP SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING
Charleston, SC
September 15, 2008

The Advisory Panel Committee met in Closed Session on September 15, 2008. The committee reviewed applications for open seats on the Habitat and Environmental Protection Advisory Panel. **The committee approved the following motions:**

MOTION #1: CREATE A MEDIA SEAT ON THE HABITAT ADVISORY PANEL AND ADVERTISE.

MOTION #2: APPOINT MARK CARTER TO THE HABITAT ADVISORY PANEL.

MOTION #3: APPOINT JOHN A. WILLIAMS TO HABITAT ADVISORY PANEL.

MOTION #4: APPOINT MIKE STREET TO AN AT-LARGE SCIENTIST SEAT ON THE HABITAT ADVISORY PANEL.

MOTION #5: APPOINT JOANNA WALCZAK TO AN AT-LARGE SCIENTIST SEAT ON THE HABITAT AP.

The committee also reviewed the structure of the Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel and general procedures regarding advisory panels. The committee provided a list of recommendations for Council consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Have APs meet prior to the Council meeting week;
- Involve the AP chair in providing the AP report to the committee (or Council if necessary);
- Include majority and minority opinions in the report from the AP;
- The committee chair should attend the AP meeting;
- Provide orientation for new AP members, stressing the mandates of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act and explanation of AP duties;
- Advertise “general” open seats on the Snapper Grouper AP (not state or sector specific);
- Explore options for choosing “general” open seats for other APs;
- Have the NMFS Regional Administrator hold a “Town Hall” type of meeting with constituents as part of the Council meeting week (similar to what is done with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council).

The committee emphasized the need to have documents and reports written in a format that members of the general public, including advisory panel members, can more readily understand.

The committee acknowledged the appointment of Eric Robillard with Georgia DNR's Coastal Resources Division to the Marine Protected Area AP.

Note: The following open seats on advisory panels will be advertised:

- 1 Media Seat on the Habitat AP
- 5 Open Seats (general) on the Snapper Grouper AP
- 1 Georgia Recreational Seat on the King & Spanish Mackerel AP (readvertised)
- 2 Open Seats on the Deepwater Shrimp AP (readvertised)