

**Summary of the Data Collection Committee
February 1, 2012
Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel
Mobile, AL**

Members:

Pearce, Chair
McKnight, V. Chair
Crabtree/Steele/Branstetter
Fischer
Greene

The agenda was adopted as written and the minutes of the October 26, 2011 meeting were approved with no modifications.

The committee reviewed the scoping document to modify federally-permitted seafood dealer reporting requirements. This document proposes modifications to seafood dealer reporting requirements for fisheries management plans of the Gulf of Mexico, south Atlantic, and two joint fishery management plans. The committee reviewed current dealer reporting requirements and considered the three proposed actions:

- *Action 1. What dealer permits would be required, and for which species?*
- *Action 2. How frequently and by what method would dealers be required to report?*
- *Action 3. Are there penalties for non-reporting or late reporting?*

With regard to Action 1, the committee discussed whether to create a universal dealer permit or separate Gulf and South Atlantic permits. The committee also discussed options about inclusion of shrimp dealers in the dealer reporting requirements. Mr. Riley stated that he felt that inclusion of shrimp dealers would not create a significant additional burden for those dealers.

Action 2 considers potential changes to the frequency and method of reporting for federally-permitted seafood dealers. Alternatives 2 and 3 include options for electronic data reporting. The committee suggested including an additional alternative to phase-in electronic reporting over time. This change will be incorporated in a subsequent draft. Concern was raised that daily reporting and/or no-purchase reporting requirement may also be burdensome to seafood dealers.

With regard to Action 3, Mr. Grimes stated concern with the current alternatives of Action 3 as the Council does not have authority levy penalties for non-reporting. The IPT will address these concerns in the next draft. After discussion of the proposed Actions, the committee recommends and I so **move to recommend approval of the Generic Amendment for Dealer Permits and Electronic Reporting for scoping hearings to be held in conjunction with Mackerel Amendments 19 and 20 at the following locations:**

**Galveston, TX
Port Aransas, TX
Grand Isle, LA
Biloxi area, MS**

**Mobile, AL
Destin, FL
Key West, FL
Fort Myers, FL**

Dr. Dana expressed interest in convening the ad-hoc Recreational Data Collection Advisory Panel and offered the following **Motion: To convene the Recreational Data Collection Advisory Panel**. However, concern was expressed that the objectives of the Panel would benefit from additional refinement. Based on this discussion, a motion to table the discussion until full Council carried.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.