

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Meeting via Webinar
September 17, 2020

The Committee approved the meeting agenda and the minutes from the June 2020 meeting.

AP and SSC Composition

The Committee met in closed session to consider adding a seat to the SSC and revising the composition of the Outreach and Communication Advisory Panel. The Committee did not recommend increasing the number of seats on the SSC. The current seats and their designations are considered sufficient to meet Council needs. The Committee approved the proposed restructuring plan for the Outreach and Communication Advisory Panel. Appointments for revised seats will be considered in December and the structural changes will take place once appointments are made.

Harassment Prevention

The Committee met in closed session to consider modification to the SAFMC Handbook to address harassment prevention measures. The intent of the proposed changes is to clarify the Council policies on harassment prevention and workplace violence and provide guidance on how affected parties should respond. The Committee supported including the proposed language, with minor modifications for addressing meeting disruptions, in the handbook revisions. The handbook will be reviewed in its entirety and considered for approval at a future meeting.

The Committee raised the issue of security at Council meetings and activities, particularly the Council's security obligations as a convener of public gatherings. Because this issue has implications to the Council's MSA responsibilities and potentially impacts all Councils, guidance will be requested of NOAA GC and the question will be raised at the Council Coordination Committee.

Travel Forms

Kelly Klasnick reviewed revised Council travel authorization and reimbursement forms. The new forms may be submitted electronically and will become effective immediately. A training video will be developed and provided to Council travelers.

Council Priorities and Work Schedule

John Carmichael reviewed the Council priorities and amendment workplan for 2020, emphasizing changes resulting from the August 7, 2020 meeting. The Council was asked to consider two potential projects to add to the workplan: the ABC Control Rule amendment and Coral Amendment 10.

Council recommended proceeding to develop Coral Amendment to include one action considering establishing a shrimp fishery access area along the Eastern boundary of the Northern extension of the Oculina Bank CHAPC. The access area will be reviewed by the Habitat and Ecosystem and Shrimp APs and comments provided to the Council in December. Council will also review options and consider scoping approval in December.

Council also recommended proceeding with SSC review on the ABC Control Rule Amendment at the SSC's October meeting, with a status report to the Council in December.

The Council supported the priorities for the December 2020 meeting and preliminary topics for the March 2021 meeting. Council members will be asked to individually prioritize FMP projects prior to the December meeting, and staff will develop solutions to the overload that develops in June 2021 for consideration in December 2020.

The Council will meet via webinar on November 9, 2020 from 10 am to 4 pm to discuss several recreational fisheries issues. Topics will include overview presentations on the recreational accountability measures and reporting amendments, a final report on the MyFishCount project, and a status report from the joint recreational working group.

MOTIONS

MOTION #1: MOVE TO REQUIRE COUNCIL MEMBERS TO TAKE HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING THROUGH THE COUNCIL SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE.

TRAINING WILL BE VALID FOR 2 YEARS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #2: MOVE TO APPROVE THE REVISED OC AP MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS IN DECEMBER 2020.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

ADDENDUM

Outreach and Communication Advisory Panel Seats

4 state agency seats: 1 ea from NC, SC, GA, FL

4 SeaGrant state program seats: 1 ea from NC, SC, GA, FL

4 fishermen seats: 1 ea from commercial, for-hire, private recreational, at-large

4 peer agency seats: 1 ea from GMFMC, MAFMC, CFMC, ASMFC

1 Coast Guard seat

1 SERO seat

1 media representative seat

2 at-large seats