

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
APRIL 11, 2025

(MEETING HELD VIA WEBINAR)

The South Atlantic Council's Executive Committee met via webinar on April 11, 2025. The Committee approved the meeting agenda and minutes of the prior meeting.

Closed Session Summary

The Committee initially convened in a closed session to discuss budget, contract, and personnel issues.

During the closed session the committee received an update on the current budget and funding disbursements from NOAA Fisheries. So far the Council has received 38% of anticipated funding and no additional disbursements under the 2025 Administrative Grant are expected before June 2025. In past years, final budget information has been provided at the Spring Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting, to be held this year May 13 – 15. Because of the ongoing uncertainty in CY2025 funding, the Committee recommended against pursuing any additional contracts at this time, including the promotional video planned through the CCC for the 50th anniversary of the Magnuson Act in 2026. The Committee also recommended reducing the 2025 state agency liaison grants to the 2019-2022 level. Continued precaution was recommended for expenditures until funding levels are known. No other specific changes were recommended for the 2025 budget and there are no plans at this time to shift upcoming Council meetings to remote formats. This could change in the future if 2025 funding levels are less than anticipated.

The Committee also considered, under other business, discussion at the recent Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) meeting on the SAFMC decision from March 2025 to change committee member representation. Chair Trish Murphy attended the meeting remotely and summarized comments from the meeting. The MAFMC is particularly concerned with the loss of participation and involvement on SAFMC Fishery Management Plans that extend into their areas, including Coastal Migratory Pelagics and Dolphin Wahoo. The New England Fishery Management Council is similarly concerned with their role on Dolphin Wahoo. Executive Director John Carmichael informed the Committee that further discussion on the topic is expected at the CCC meeting, the East Coast Climate Coordination Group (EC3G) annual meeting on May 20, and the CMOD session April 30 – May 1. The Committee recommended adding the topic to the June meeting for further discussion and consideration of input expected from the meetings listed above.

Open Session Summary

Executive Director John Carmichael reviewed the discussion from the Closed Session.

The Committee was provided a summary of the various grants that are underway at this time. Funds under these sources have been disbursed to the Council and are available for expenditures, therefore progress is continuing on these projects. These funds are separate from the

Administrative Grant which funds Council operations and can only be used for their stated purposes.

MOTION 1: MOVE TO USE THE 2019-2022 LEVELS FOR THE STATE LIAISON GRANTS FOR THE 2025 BUDGET.
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

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