

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Westin Hotel
Jekyll Island, Georgia**

March 7, 2022

Committee Members:

Mel Bell, Chair
Chester Brewer
Trish Murphey

Dr. Carolyn Belcher, Vice Chair
Jessica McCawley

Council Members

Robert Beal
LT Robert Copeland
Judy Helmey
Tom Roller
Laurilee Thompson

Chris Conklin
Tim Griner
Kerry Marhefka
Andy Strelcheck
Spud Woodward

Council Staff

Myra Brouwer
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Dr. Chip Collier
John Hadley
Allie Iberle
Kelly Klasnick
Roger Pugliese
Nick Smillie
Christina Wiegand

Julia Byrd
Cindy Chaya
Dr. Judd Curtis
Kathleen Howington
Kim Iverson
Dr. Julie Neer
Dr. Mike Schmidtke
Suzanna Thomas

Attendees and Invited Participants

Leann Bosarge
Shep Grimes
Dr. Jack McGovern
Dr. Clay Porch
Dr. John Walter

Rick DeVictor
Dewey Hemilright
Dr. Genny Nesslage
Monica Smit-Brunello

Additional attendees and invited participants attached.

The Executive Finance Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened at the Westin Hotel, Jekyll Island, Georgia, on Monday, March 7, 2022, and was called to order by Chairman Mel Bell.

MR. BELL: We will go ahead and convene the Executive Committee, and I should have done this earlier with the SEDAR Committee, but the committee members are myself, Carolyn Belcher, Chester Brewer, Jessica McCawley, and Trish Murphey. Everyone is welcome to participate and ask questions, but John is going to work us -- First of all, it's a very short agenda, and we have Approval of the Agenda. Is there any additions to the agenda under the Executive Committee? I don't see any, and so the agenda stands approved.

The minutes from the last meeting, any edits to the last Executive Committee meeting? I don't see any edits, and so the minutes stand approved, and that takes us to the one item, which would be John Carmichael discussing the Council Coordination Committee, and this is -- For a lot of new people, this is -- I called this kind of like CCC 101 a little bit, so John could kind of explain what the Council Coordination Committee is and what we do and that sort of thing and then run through some things that the committee is working on and issues, and so, John, take it away, when you're ready.

MR. CARMICHAEL: All right. Thank you, Mel, and I appreciate that introduction, and I'm going to go through what the Council Coordination Committee is about and give you a look ahead into some things that we'll be talking about later on this year.

First of all, just the CCC itself process, and the CCC members are the council chairs, the vice chairs, and the executive directors. They meet twice a year. Normally, the spring meeting is held in the host region, and the fall meeting is held in Washington, D.C., and so hosting of the CCC rotates on an annual basis across the eight councils, and the CCC is recognized as an advisory panel, per the MSA, and acknowledged in the SOPPs of all the councils, and that gives it the ability to meet and do all the things, in compliance with the rules of Magnuson and meetings and such, and things are Federal Register noticed and open to the public, just as your council meetings are.

There is a dedicated website to the CCC, fisheriescouncils.org. If you go there, you can find information from all the past meetings, and there's a number of fact sheets about the different councils, and there's information on the legislative positions and acts and such that's been developed over the years, and so, anytime you're wondering what's going on with the CCC, or you hear something about it, there's a lot of information there, and the host council is responsible each year for keeping that up-to-date.

I will just say that one council serves as the host, and the Mid-Atlantic is hosting this year, and the Gulf will host next year. We hosted in 2019, and so we'll come back around I guess in like 2027, when it will be our turn again, and so, as the host, you organize the CCC meetings, and you maintain the website, as I mentioned, and the host council chair chairs the CCC meetings, and you serve as the point of contact in working with NMFS, primarily Headquarters staff, on things related to the CCC, like organizing various meetings and getting input on the agenda, managing the different working groups, and so there's a number of administrative duties that go along with this that each council shares, and then you're responsible for various correspondence.

If the CCC has a meeting and recommends sending a letter to NMFS on a particular topic, the host council manages that and gets it done and gets everyone to review it and has everybody's signatures on it and sends it in.

The CCC typical agenda topics are a lot of reports, as you can imagine, and monitoring the council budget is a big part of that, and so this is the national line item for council funding, and so keeping track of that and how it's going in the budget outlook is a regular topic, and we also get various updates from NMFS on science activities and habitat activities and general operations, and so, during COVID, there were regular monthly meetings with the CCC and NMFS on COVID operations.

We comment on NMFS policy directives, and so there's a lot of things that aren't necessarily to the level of law, but they are policy guidelines that NMFS has, and they use the CCC to get comment and input on how it will affect the councils. Similar, on the various NMFS technical guidance documents, which, for example, would be where they implement things like guidelines on National Standards, and so this is often reviewed by the CCC as well.

The group develops positions on legislation, and so MSA, but also Endangered Species and NEPA, where it crosses over into council business, and this is one of the activities that takes quite a bit of time out of CCC members, and then commenting on things like Executive Orders, which we dealt with over the last few years, and then reports from the different sub-committees and working groups that might be underway at any given time.

I want to focus in on some of those, just to give you a sense of the more detailed activity that they do, and this would be groups that sometimes are CCC-level members, but, a lot of times, they're really run by our different council staffs, and so we have what's called the Science Coordination Sub-Committee, and it used to be known as the National SSC, and this was a meeting of the chairs and vice chairs from each SSC, where they would get together and talk about technical issues, scientific issues, that are of interest to all the councils collectively.

If you go to the national council, fishery council, website, there are reports from each of these SSC meetings that have been held, and so there's ones that talked about how we deal with ABC control rules, and the first one talked about SSC processes and comparing how the different SSCs operate. The most recent one was dealing with MSEs, and then there is going to be one, later on this year, and I'm blanking on what the topics were, and, Chip, those topics were -- I think ecosystem management, maybe, was it? Yes, and it was ecosystem-management-level topics, and so it's a good chance for all of the SSCs to share notes across-the-board and see how things are going in different regions.

There's a legislative working group, which reviews legislation in detail, and it develops initial CCC positions, and so this is one that actually I serve on, and Jessica serves on, and has for quite some time, for continuity, and so we can have different people serve on these, and one of the things that I will point out to you later is one of our position documents, because these have become pretty effective, we understand, in Congress to have a position of all the councils together, as well as how each individual council may feel about a particular legislation.

We don't lobby, as councils, but we can provide input on how it impacts us, and, a lot of times, when they're working on legislation, they are interested in how it would impact our operations,

and so that's one of the important activities of the group that does take a quite a bit of time, and so I will hit on that later.

We have a habitat working group, which is the habitat experts, and like, in our case, it's Roger who serves on it, and they're quite busy right now because of the Thirty-by-Thirty effort and the America the Beautiful, and so all of those activities that are going on with the area-based management, and they've been working on those issues recently, and they also deal with habitat policy reviews and EFH issues, et cetera, but it's trying to come up with an inventory right now, the group is, on how much area councils have set aside, to some degree, and making sure that that is recognized in these efforts to figure out have set aside 30 percent.

There is some debate, as we know, and we still haven't gotten the straight answer on just what would qualify, but the group is working on making a case that councils have done a lot to protect and preserve areas.

There is also what's called the CMOD, which is the Council Member Ongoing Development, and some folks may have heard of, years ago, the Fisheries Forum, and that no longer exists, and so what the councils have done is taken it amongst themselves to do and continue that, in spirit, and have these regular gatherings of council members to talk about issues, and it will likely occur biannually, and it will be a training session for council members, and so, coming up in 2022 -- Like a lot of things, this has been pushed back a couple of years, because of COVID, and so, hopefully, in 2022, this will happen as an in-person workshop, talking, again, about ecosystem-based fisheries management, and so you can see some commonality of these issues that we're dealing with on a national basis, and are council member representatives are Jessica, Carolyn, and Kerry, hopefully, depending on timing and availability, et cetera, but that's the plan.

This will be the thing that we will look to every other year, to get some other council members, depending on the topic and who is interested and that sort of thing, and so it's a good chance to meet with other council members and share notes and learn a little bit about how things operate nationwide.

There is a communication workgroup, which is largely the public information officers, and so, in our case, Kim, and they share information on best practices and communication strategies, and they work to communicate the CCC message, and then the administrative officers, which for us is Kelly, get together informally, to just talk about council business topics, because you can imagine there is a lot of issues, logistics, et cetera, underpinning all of this that we do, and sometimes NMFS' policies can have an impact on that, and so those guys get together and share notes and try to see how everybody is dealing with different things, and, if there is strategies, or issues, to bring up for NMFS, they can do that up through the CCC, and so there's a lot that goes on here in the background with all of these different groups.

I wanted to highlight a few of the activities. The CCC has put on what can be called the Managing our Nation's Fisheries Conferences, and there has been three of them held so far, and they bring members from all of the councils and NMFS, and they have invited speakers and experts on a wide range of topics. I think the first one was talking about one of the Magnuson reauthorization acts, and we've talked about really whatever the hot topics are, the issues, and like ecosystem management and management strategies are things that have been discussed in the past. This is another great opportunity to get together and have council members really get cutting-edge

information and become better informed and, ideally, better able to do the tough job that you guys do sitting around this table. It's been a while, and we're maybe getting past COVID, and we'll start thinking about another one of these in a few years.

That's a really quick rundown on just what the CCC does, and what it's about, and I was going to pause here, and see if there's any questions, before moving on into a little more detail on the upcoming meeting in May and the legislative work that we're doing.

MR. BELL: Any questions about the CCC? I will say that timing is everything, and the COVID hit, and it kind of changed things around and all, and we had some -- The way John mentioned it, you rotate the meetings around in different areas, and so we didn't meet anywhere, other than virtually, and having a virtual meeting with people that are in Puerto Rico, or all the way to the Western Pacific, Guam, it's rather challenging, but particularly for the people that were in Guam and all, because they were like 3:30 or 4:00 in the morning on this meeting, but it was good, and you could see everybody, but it's just the next level up, where all the councils are working together, and you get to meet folks from other councils and all and share what you're doing and what you've got going on, and so it is a good thing.

We got really busy with a lot of conversations during COVID about how folks were dealing with things and the CARES Act and all kinds of things that we found ourselves having a lot of calls and things, but it's a good group of people. No questions right now? I don't see any, John, if you want to move along.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Thank you, Mel. Yes, virtual meetings get challenging when you're spanning so many time zones, that's for sure, and so I included the MSA Working Paper, Attachment 1b, and it just gives you a sense of what these look like and the different positions of the councils nationwide. There is three main topic areas within that. There are science and data issues, fisheries management, and then process and authority.

As you go through each one of those, what you see is there's a consensus position that's been approved by the CCC, and that means that it's a consensus, and every council agreed that that was a fair representation of the issues. As in consensus, people may not agree with everything, or there may be things that they felt were important that didn't make their way to the full group consensus, and so each council has the ability to provide their own individual council positions.

They can expand on issues within the consensus and raise things that are issues within their region, and so you also see then, underneath that, the position of every council. Sometimes the council may not have a position on an issue, and not have an entry, and sometimes a council may be quite detailed and have a position statement that's even longer than the consensus, and so it really varies depending on the issues and the challenges within a given council.

One of the things we have to do, we as a council, is we haven't updated this in a while, and there's been some progress on some of the legislative issues, and there's some things that were issues and are maybe not looking to be issues legislatively, and there's some new things developing that we need to address, and so what we'll need to do, sometime ideally -- Certainly over the next year, is make time that we can review the statements, the South Atlantic Council statements, in detail and see if we still agree with them and update them and create some new positions on some new topics.

The general process for this, when we do it, is that the Executive Committee does a draft and works through the specifics and then brings it to the council for approval and discussion, and so that would be a chance to weigh-in and make sure that we as a council support all the consensus statements of the CCC overall. If not, then our representatives at the CCC can raise that and then give us a chance to address our specific issues within our own council thing, and so we're kind of busy right now, obviously, but I think the workload frees up a little bit later in the year, where we can start on this, and the timeline on this is to try to have all this updated for the 2023 May CCC meeting.

Then the other item is to look at the potential meeting topics, and so this was the list that we had when we put the briefing book together, and I've got another list, the latest and greatest, that's been developing, and so Chris at the Mid-Atlantic Council, Chris Moore, has been working closely with NMFS, and with the other councils, to hash out a list of agenda topics for our meeting that's coming up in May.

Here's the main topics that we're looking at, and it's pretty similar to what's in the PowerPoint. The update of NOAA Fisheries and the priorities for 2022/2023, and then looking at the Executive Order, and so we did an Executive Order on improving America's fisheries, and we just want to hear from NMFS as to what's been implemented, and quite a few things that were on there required NMFS action, and then the normal budget and council update, science update, legislative outlook, and there is a technical guidance workgroup that's been underway for a while, dealing with National Standard 1, which deals with overfished and overfishing, et cetera, and one of the things they're looking at is better guidance on dealing with data-poor species, and so the work has been underway for a long time.

Like many things, it got delayed by COVID, and so we're hoping that the report is done at that time, and we'll be able to look at it and review it, which usually means taking it out to our SSCs and councils to look at too, if there's time.

Update on the environmental justice issue, which is something that has come up just over the last year, really, as a top topic, and NMFS has been talking to the councils and the states and others, I think as most of you all are aware, about this topic, and so we want to continue to discuss this and try to find out what we can do and what NMFS has in mind and what the expectations are.

Climate change scenario planning, and so climate change is another issue, and climate-ready fisheries is one of the legislative topics. We are in, as we've talked about several times, this scenario planning process along the Atlantic coast, where we're working with the Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils. Over the last few weeks, there's been a lot of webinars about that, to talk about climate-related issues, and so we're planning on giving an update to the CCC about this process and how it's going to play out on the Atlantic coast.

The Northeast Region is going to give their habitat assessment report and just show what that has done, just to compare things across regions, because one of the things we do is the host council will often talk about things that are happening in their region, and it's a way to just kind of shed a little light to the others as to what's going on, and so that's what some of these will be on, and then there is, as I mentioned, the America the Beautiful report, the Thirty-by-Thirty initiative, and so we'll hear from our area-based sub-committee of the habitat group, and they've been working to map things out and show how many areas we've conserved.

Offshore wind development is a growing topic in our area, and it's a lot bigger topic, particularly to our north and other areas, and so an update on that and how the process is going, and that's something that we are probably going to get brought into more and more. We're going to spend some time talking about management strategy evaluations, and so a topic that we've talked about a lot, and they've been used in some cases, and they are making their way into the management process, and so we're hoping to look at some examples of how councils may have used this information for their management decision process. The idea here is to get a few councils to potentially talk about some real-world examples and moving beyond the theory.

Recreational fisheries management is always a big topic. At this meeting, we're expecting to hear a report from the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit, which I think NMFS puts this on every three or four years or something, and so it will be occurring at the end of March this year, and so we'll get a report-out on that. Then we'll go into our workgroups and updates on communication, the CMOD, the scientific, et cetera.

We're going to have some discussion of seafood competitiveness, and this is an issue that comes around quite a bit. Dealing with marketing, there's some initiatives out there, and there have been some discussions, even legislatively, about dealing with seafood marketing. One of the concerns is various third-party groups that pass their opinion on what sustainability is, whether or not things are sustainable or not, and it tends to get some attention from councils and SSCs and others, because the information is not considered to always be wholly reliable or objective.

The CCC has talked about this in the past, and it's something that NMFS has shied away from say engaging on these third-party groups, but the CCC is trying to get NMFS to be more involved and maybe use some of the products that NMFS does now already to potentially highlight fisheries that are actually considered sustainable under the rules of the Magnuson Act, and that's potentially maybe where the trade taskforce comes in.

Then we'll talk about international affairs, and this is mainly a question about what is NOAA's fisheries role and what is the council's role, and so, as you guys know, there's a lot of international groups involved in high-seas fisheries, and it's not always clear where our role is. There are times when we can participate, and we have folks who go to ICCAT, and there's COFI, a group in the UN, which is a committee on fisheries, and they have international meetings, and we're trying to clarify, at the CCC level, where we're just the general public level and where we may actually have more of an official role, in which case we could potentially develop positions and issues and bring them forward.

Then integration of the Endangered Species Act with MSA, and this is another of those issues that has been playing out for a while, and you know we get protected resources updates regularly, but many of the councils have struggled with what to do with that information and making sure that they're in the loop early in the ESA consultation and discussion process, and so this is a continued effort by the CCC to get the councils a voice on this issue.

That's the main topics that we're looking at, and I think we've covered a lot of ground here, and I just wanted to let you guys know what's on the list, and, if there's anything else that you can think of that you really believe is of national interest and is something that we should talk about, I would be glad to hear it, and we'll take it to the next discussions of the agenda.

MR. BELL: All right, and so that's why I called this sort of CCC 101, and there's a lot of new folks that may be going, what is the CCC, you know, but it basically is just the next level up, and discussing things at a higher level, and so, you know, again, if there are things that kind of rise to that level of attention, where we would need to -- We'll all ears, if you guys have anything that comes to mind, and we've kind of touched on a lot of different things.

I will say that, you know, thanks to COVID, we missed out on some great meeting opportunities, and so I went to virtual Hawaii, and that wasn't so much fun, and we went to virtual Monterrey, and that wasn't so much fun, and Jessica was supposed to go to an international meeting, and she didn't get to go, but it is a good opportunity to work with different folks at a different level, and so that's CCC, and do you guys have any questions or things that -- Like John said, I mean, topics that you think should maybe rise to that level in discussion or management? Kerry.

MS. MARHEFKA: I was searching my email, so I got the name right, but I know that there's currently some work being done between USDA and NOAA, and then they've hired out contractors to do some research on direct marketing of seafood, and the end -- What they're hoping the end result is going to be is really good economic data for NOAA, and then to us, to be able to sort of look at what we've kind of talked about all along, is following that fish a little further, and I was part of a focus group, asked to be part of a focus group, recently, and my first thought was I wish the councils knew more about what was going on with this.

The NOAA part of it is happening in Silver Spring, and so I just started, while you were talking about it, but I would like to find that, and I would like to run it by you, and I would like to consider -- At some point, I would love for our council to hear what they're doing, and I know that time, for us, is really tight, but it would fit nicely under some of that seafood competitiveness topic, perhaps, is what made me think of it, and so I would love to circle back around with you and talk to you about that, because I'm excited about the kind of economic data that they're eventually going to have. To have USDA sort of involved in looking at the marketing aspect of seafood -- You know, they're a powerhouse, and they collect a lot of really good information, and I'm excited about that.

MR. BELL: Okay. Thanks, Kerry. Anything else? Dewey.

MR. HEMILRIGHT: Given the discussion about seafood competitiveness, does the CCC, and maybe, in some of these discussions they're going to talk about imports and the competitiveness that the U.S. fishermen have to compete against, and a lot of the imports, particularly highly migratory fish, we have to use circle hooks and a wide variety of things, and other countries -- That same fish, they'll catch that fish, and it's the damndest thing, and it's shipped into our marketplace with competition, and it's probably no different than with groupers from other countries or different things like that, and, I mean, you know, we're watching some of this play out on the scene right now with other forms of things, whether it's the gas we're putting in our cars, or in our boats, and I'm just wondering about bringing that up, and I will mention it also at the Mid-Atlantic, because, as we look on, it just baffles me that we have a set of rules, and we're like 1 and 2 percent, particularly the highly migratory species, but yet everybody else can catch that same fish, and they've got our marketplace.

I would hope to bring that up, and not only with highly-migratory fish, but there's other species as well that are imported in, and you see grouper on the menu somewhere, and it ain't snowy grouper or other groupers like that, you know, and so just what did they have to go through to harvest it? Thank you.

MR. BELL: Yes, and that's a good point, Dewey. I mean, all the councils are dealing with competition with foreign imports and things, or whatever, but that's not just unique to one council, and so that's the kind of thing that would probably benefit from multiple councils discussing and working through those sorts of things. John.

MR. CARMICHAEL: One of the discussion points about this stuff, just from a higher level, is, you know, what role should councils play in marketing, and there is some thought that council members are not really marketers, necessarily, and I think it's something that maybe lends itself to some type of working group, to get the representatives involved in the seafood industry who may know about that to deal with some of those issues. I expect that will come up in some of the discussion about what role the CCC and the council should play in this.

MR. BELL: Laurilee, did you have a question?

MS. THOMPSON: Yes, and, actually, Leann has had her hand up long before me, but, right now, those of us that want to pay to play are having to hire third-party businesses, like the Marine Stewardship Council, to get our products certified as sustainable. Is there a way that NOAA can help promote and market our seafood, any seafood that's harvested in the United States, because everything that's under Magnuson is sustainable, so that we don't have to pay a third party to get our products certified as sustainable? I think that should be a role of NOAA.

MR. CARMICHAEL: I think that is going to be part of the discussion, and, yes, that was part of the earlier letters about that, about what role the things like stocks that are not overfished and overfishing should play in this sort of thing. NFMS has said they don't want to create like a competing certification process, but there are things that do say this stock is being harvested sustainably, and it's not overfished, and it's not overfishing, and it seems to be a matter of getting that into the mix, and so I do think that topic is going to be part of the discussion.

MR. BELL: All right. Leann and then Chester.

MS. BOSARGE: If you don't mind, I will weigh-in a little, since the CCC is all the councils together, and I was going to kind of piggyback on what Dewey was saying a little bit, and I hope that imports, and I will say this at the Gulf meeting too, but I hope that imports will be a topic of discussion, especially in my industry, which is the shrimp industry, and a lot of those imports that come in don't meet our health standards, right, and they have chemical in them, antibiotics or something of that nature, that are banned in this country, and so that has to be part of that discussion, to me, about having a competitive marketplace.

That, of course, falls back to not having enough inspections on the seafood that's coming in, but, if you don't voice that, you will never get there, right, and you will never beef that up, but the thing I was going to mention about promotion and marketing -- I wonder if you're going to have any discussion, or presentations, on this national seafood partnership that's being stood up right now.

I am actually part of a -- I don't even know what my real position is, and maybe an expert working group taskforce member or something, but I'm going to present on it at the Boston Seafood Show next week, and, essentially, what it is is like a -- It is promoting seafood to consumers, right, in the United States, but it's a real broad, overarching, and like not a particular species or anything like that, and it's just looking at the dietary guidelines that were put out by our government about a year ago and knowing that most of our consumers don't meet the recommended average daily values for seafood consumption, and so trying to promote that as a protein option, essentially the same way we do beef and chicken and stuff, and so hopefully maybe you all -- I think Paul Doremus might be on that group, and so maybe you could get with him and see who can present something.

Then, as far as promotion and marketing, another idea that I had a while back, when we had that Executive Order from Trump actually on strengthening the competitiveness, which really carried over into the Biden administration, but it was broadened for food security in general, but I had this idea that we have so many owner-operators in commercial fisheries, right, which is generally who provides the fish to U.S. consumers, that don't, obviously, always live along the water, and a lot of them are individual owner-operators, and COVID brought about this huge push for direct to consumer, right, because we couldn't really go to restaurants anymore and things like that.

You saw a lot more direct to consumer avenues, and it would be great if NMFS had some sort of platform for all of our smaller fishermen that want to go direct to consumer, where it's like a one-stop shop for any -- Whether the consumer wants salmon from Alaska or something, or they want shrimp from the Gulf or South Atlantic, and they know they could go there, and NMFS isn't like certifying anything, but it's just sort of like an Etsy for seafood, right, and all your little artisans go to Etsy, and they have their stuff, and you click on it and it takes you through to their platform, their individual platform or storefront. Anyway, it's just an idea of something we might could throw around at the CCC.

MR. BELL: Okay. Chester.

MR. BREWER: Laurilee brought up a topic that's near and dear to my heart, and I'm not going to say what I think about those little blue tags, because I would probably get sued, but, in any event, to me, it's -- Wild-caught seafood is a luxury item, and it's going to be a luxury item, but it's a luxury item that people are willing to pay more money for.

I know that, if you're talking about Gulf wild shrimp, they're going to cost more, and they just are, and so people need to know what they're buying, and I will pay extra for Gulf shrimp, because I know the quality is there, and I am reasonably -- I'm reasonably familiar with the industry, and I am very comfortable eating that. I am not comfortable buying whatever in Costco that's frozen, and it's almost like a labeling issue, to me, and I think that our government could get involved in that, to let people know that, hey, this is -- Just to take shrimp again, because I probably know that better than anything, but this is wild-caught Gulf shrimp, and it has a lot of attributes that something caught in -- I will try to be careful in my wording, but that was raised, essentially, in a sewer somewhere in the far east, and it just -- I don't want to touch that stuff.

If there is truth in labeling as to what's in that package, I'm not going to touch it, and I'm not going to feed it to people, and I'm not even going to have anything to do with it, and so I do think that

the government could play a very real role in sort of like truth in advertising, truth in labeling, for the different wild-caught United States products, and Canada.

MR. BELL: Thanks, Chester. Kerry.

MS. MARHEFKA: Just a real quick plug, since you brought it up, and I realized that maybe a lot of people here don't know about it, but, until recently, I was a member of the Executive Committee for an organization called Local Catch, and they actually have a national seafood finder that lists direct marketing, exactly what you're talking about, and how comprehensive it is, compared to if you were going through NMFS, but it is a good tool, and anyone can get on it, and I highly recommend it. There is no other agenda there, other than just to connect fishermen with someone who wants to buy their fish, and so it's Local Catch Network, if you want to check out that website.

MR. BELL: Okay. Laurilee.

MS. THOMPSON: First of all, I apologize for turning my light on a while ago. I was confused on which meeting I'm at. A lot of meetings, when you want to speak, you turn your light on, and so I will raise my hand from now on. I think that another topic that should be added to the May 2022 meeting and potential topics is what to do about the astronomical jump in fuel prices that we've seen.

Right now, today, fuel at Port Canaveral is \$2.04 a gallon more than it was a year ago, and this is going to put people out of business, and they will not be able to afford to go fishing and so farmers get subsidies from the government, and why doesn't the commercial fishing industry get subsidized by the government when we are facing hard times, and so I think that needs to be discussed, and that's also a part of how are we going to ever get independent of other foreign countries and our dependence on their seafood if the government isn't helping support our commercial fishing industry?

MR. BELL: Thanks, Laurilee. Anything else? Some good stuff. Thanks for that. Anything else to come before the Executive Committee? All right. Then we'll adjourn the Executive Committee. What I would like to do is reconvene Full Council for one simple item, and I'm going to try to buy some more time and pull something in from Thursday, and Christina says she can knock that out for me in fifteen minutes or so, or twenty or whatever.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on March 7, 2022.)

- - -

Certified By _____ Date _____

Transcribed By
Amanda Thomas
May 5, 2022

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
2020 COUNCIL MEMBERS

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(THUR, 3/10/2022)

(This group was
moved up to
Monday on
the agenda
3/7/2022)

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
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(THUR, 3/10/2022)
(This group
moved up to
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3/7/2022)*

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Chester Brewer
Chris Conklin
LT Robert Copeland
Tim Griner
Judy Helmey
Jessica McCawley
Tom Roller
Andy Strelcheck
Laurilee Thompson
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Staff contact: Julia Byrd

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Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
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Andy Strelcheck
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Tom Roller
Andy Strelcheck
Laurilee Thompson
Mid-Atlantic:
Dewey Hemilright/David Stormer
New England: Rick Bellavance
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LT Robert Copeland
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Laurilee Thompson
Staff contact: Cameron Rhodes

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
COUNCIL STAFF

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(This group was
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agenda
3/7/2022)

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SAFMC March Council

Attendee Report: Meeting (3/7/22 - 3/11/22)

Report Generated:

03/08/2022 05:51 AM EST

Webinar ID

914-670-795

Actual Start Date/Time

03/07/2022 12:29 PM EST

Duration

4 hours 11 minutes

Attendee Details

Attended	Last Name	First Name
Yes	BROUWER	MYRA
Yes	Barbieri	Luiz
Yes	Beal	Bob
Yes	Bianchi	Alan
Yes	Blackshear	David
Yes	Bublely	Walter
Yes	Calay	Shannon
Yes	Chaya	Cindy
Yes	Conklin	00The Real Chris
Yes	Copeland	00 Robert
Yes	Cox	Derek
Yes	DeVictor	Rick
Yes	Finch	Margaret
Yes	Flowers	Jared
Yes	Franke	Emilie
Yes	Glazier	Ed
Yes	Godwin	Joelle
Yes	Gore	Karla
Yes	Hadley	01John
Yes	Harrison	Alana
Yes	Hart	Hannah
Yes	Helies	Frank
Yes	Hemilright	Dewey
Yes	Howington	Kathleen
Yes	Ingram	Jamal
Yes	Iverson	01 Kim
Yes	Kittle	Christine
Yes	Klasnick	01Kelly
Yes	Knowlton	Kathy
Yes	Laks	Ira
Yes	Laney	Wilson
Yes	Malinowski	Rich
Yes	McCoy	Sherylanne
Yes	McGovern	Jack
Yes	Mehta	Nikhil

