

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Westin Jekyll Island
Jekyll Island, GA**

March 9, 2016

SUMMARY MINUTES

Executive Finance Committee

Dr. Michelle Duval, Chair
Mel Bell
Ben Hartig

Charlie Phillips, Vice-Chair
Jessica McCawley

Council Members:

Anna Beckwith
Chester Brewer
Chris Conklin
Dr. Roy Crabtree
Dr. Wilson Laney

Zack Bowen
Mark Brown
Jack Cox
Doug Haymans
LTJG Tara Pray

Council Staff:

Gregg Waugh
Mike Collins
Dr. Kari MacLauchlin
Kim Iverson
Julie O'Dell

John Carmichael
Dr. Brian Chevront
Chip Collier
Amber Von Harten
Myra Brouwer

Observers/Participants:

Monica Smit-Brunello
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith
Karla Gore
Leann Bosarge
Erika Burgess

Dr. Mike Larkin
Dr. Jack McGovern
Dr. Marcel Reichert
Dewey Hemilright
Dr. George Sedberry

Additional Observers Attached

The Executive Finance Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened at the Westin Jekyll Island, Jekyll Island, Georgia, Wednesday afternoon, March 9, 2016, and was called to order by Chairman Michelle Duval.

DR. DUVAL: We're going to bring the Executive Finance Committee to order. The committee members are myself, Charlie Phillips, Mel Bell, Ben Hartig, and Jessica McCawley. The first order of business is Approval of the Agenda. Are there any modifications to the agenda?

MR. WAUGH: Just a couple of items. Under Other Business, we want to talk about -- I've got a short report on council staff activities and committee structure for where we let our other councils participate. I just want to cover those two under Other Business.

DR. DUVAL: With those two additions to the agenda under Other Business -- Brian.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I have another item to add under Other Business regarding Alternative 1, no action, alternatives and regarding a blanket allowance to allow staff to modify those as necessary, so the council doesn't have to vote on them every time, all those changes. If we can add that, when I get up there and do my stuff, I will help out with that.

DR. DUVAL: Any other modifications to the agenda or items for Other Business? Seeing none, the agenda is approved. The next item is Approval of the December 2015 Committee Minutes. Are there any modifications to those minutes? Seeing none, the minutes stand approved. The next item is the Status of Council Year 2015 Budget Expenditures, and both Mike and Gregg are going to go over this with us. This is Attachment 1 in your briefing book.

MR. COLLINS: I've got that up on the screen. We finished the year with about \$237,000 in surplus, which we carry over to this year. We have not finalized a budget for this year, and so you'll get that next time, in the June meeting, because the spend plan has not been approved by OMB yet, but we do have a tentative budget that Gregg brought back from the CCC that he will talk about. Does anybody have any questions about the 2015 expenditures?

DR. DUVAL: Any questions? No.

MR. COLLINS: I can go over briefly the 2016 draft. I explained it a couple of meetings ago, where I take the activities schedule, which I will bring up in a second, and combine that with historical data and some of the fixed costs, for example rent and things like that, and the numbers that you see on the draft, particularly in travel issues and council compensation and staff travel and AP travel and SSC, are based upon 100 percent attendance, and that's why we get a surplus normally, because we don't enjoy 100 percent attendance at those events.

I can give you an example of that. I am bringing up the activities schedule. It's not going to be very easy to see on the screen, but in your briefing book, if you look at the very first block, Citizen Science, I projected that to be \$39,600 at full attendance, but it turned out to be \$34,000. Then the Mackerel AP, I projected it to be about \$15,000, and the one we held earlier this year came out at \$6,200, and so that's how we wind up with a surplus, because we, again, don't get full attendance. Does anybody have any questions about the activities schedule?

DR. DUVAL: I just have one question. You have the total management costs and then you have the other total on the far right-hand side of the screen. That is just the meeting rooms, and what is the other?

MR. COLLINS: Other is the other participants, other than staff and council members', travel. Those are the participants that came to any meeting.

DR. DUVAL: So that's the other on the second-to-the-right-hand column?

MR. COLLINS: Yes.

DR. DUVAL: Then what about the other costs under the total management costs?

MR. COLLINS: That final column, under the total, gets brought over to the other costs, and that gets added to staff travel, member travel, and council compensation for the total management cost.

MR. HAYMANS: To make sure that I understand then, taking this meeting, for instance, \$68,000, \$11,000, and \$12,000, and so you're basically \$80,000 for a single council meeting?

MR. COLLINS: That really depends upon the location.

MR. HAYMANS: Right, but that's the projected cost for this meeting? Like Citizen Science, and that's where I wanted to get, you had basically \$67,000, but you said it only cost \$34,000 to put that on? Is that right?

MR. COLLINS: No, I said \$39,000 is what I projected for Citizen Science, \$39,690. It came in at \$34,297.

MR. HAYMANS: The meeting room costs and --

MR. COLLINS: That's all included in the \$39,000. That's the total.

MR. HAYMAN: So when we're looking at all these schedules, if we look at that total management cost through there, that's kind of what it costs?

MR. COLLINS: That's all the categories added together.

DR. DUVAL: Any other questions for Mike on the columns? Okay.

MR. WAUGH: Then the next item is Attachment 3. What this is, it's taking our existing categories and just giving you a rough idea of what that would look like for 2016. The budget information we got at the CCC meeting, there was an increase of \$707,000 in the council line item, the amount of money available for the councils, and that's divided on a set percentage basis between the councils. That was a bump of \$76,000 for us.

The rest of our categories are roughly the same, but, again, as Mike indicated, we don't have a spend plan yet, and so our intention would be to bring a draft budget for you to look at at the June

meeting, because by then we'll have the spend plan and we'll have the details broken out by the various categories, and that's when you would be approving your Calendar Year 2016 Budget.

DR. DUVAL: Any questions for Gregg on any of that? Okay.

MR. WAUGH: Brian, do you want to come up and -- Brian is going to take you through part of the Council Follow-Up and then some of the priorities discussion.

DR. CHEUVRONT: In Agenda Item Number 4, we're going to refer to two attachments. The first one we're going to talk about is Attachment 4a, which is the meeting follow-ups, and there's just a couple of things that I wanted to make folks aware of. First off, we've got some upcoming meetings between now and the June council meeting that we thought it would be good for you all to know about.

The first is the SEDAR 41 review is next week, and that's for red snapper. The Lobster Review Panel is going to meet on March 28, followed by the Lobster Advisory Panel on April 25, and then you've got the Snapper Grouper AP meeting on April 26 and 27, and then you have the SEP and the SSC meeting between May 3 and May 5. That's a summary of the upcoming meetings that are planned. They're all in that follow-up, but I just thought you would like to see just those things pulled out that are going to happen between now and your June meeting.

The other thing that I want to talk about is Attachment 4a, and this is on PDF page 73, if you want to follow along, but this is our preliminary idea of what our agenda is going to look like in June. What I wanted to make you aware of is the committees that we think may be meeting. If you all think differently, this would be a good time to tell us some things about it, but the Habitat and Ecosystem Committee is going to be meeting on Monday, and there's an Ocean Tools Discussion that there's going to be some demonstration of some gear and things. That's going to be followed, on that Monday evening, by a reception that's sponsored by the industry and some regional partners.

MR. WAUGH: This will be -- Some of it will be a status report on the FEP 2, what the various workgroups have been drafting and where we stand on that. Roger has been our liaison to a number of different groups and attended a number of sessions. In the Law Enforcement AP, we started to have some discussions about how you might monitor MPAs that are very far offshore, and we had a brief discussion about the potential of using drones, which there are some legal issues with, but there's a lot of technology out there now that can monitor these sites remotely and the costs for doing this are coming down.

Roger is working together to put together a number of different companies that will come in and demo some of this gear. Some of these types of gear are a sufficient size also that they could be placed on some of our larger commercial and recreational vessels to do some of the items that were suggested that we'll talk about for our Citizen Science, when you get into environmental monitoring and mapping. We just wanted to have a demo of some of those types of things that are available.

The Ocean Investment there is talking about various sources of potential funding that we might be able to tap into. Then we'll talk about the habitat and ecosystem tools. We've worked for several years now with the State of Florida in developing tools to display various types of habitat

information and fisheries information, and so we want to have a little bit of a hands-on session showing you what's available from within our website.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Thanks, Gregg. We're showing, on the agenda right now, SSC Selection and AP Selection. I think there was some discussion earlier that AP Selection might be in September, as opposed to June, and so that's why I said "or perhaps September", because I think we'll get that worked out, and so that may not be an issue. We will have a Spiny Lobster meeting, because you're going to be having the boards meeting, as well as the AP.

MR. BREWER: Because of what went on during closed session in the AP Selection, we had better schedule that in for June, I think. Dr. Duval, what you would think on that? We are having to re-advertise and then fill some slots before we have some of the AP meetings.

DR. DUVAL: Most of those advisory panel meetings don't happen until after our September council meeting, and so that's why I think Kim was suggesting that maybe September would be soon enough for that.

MR. BREWER: My bad. I thought they were before the September meeting.

DR. DUVAL: No problem.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay, and so we're going to have Protected Resources, Snapper Grouper, and Gregg just whispered in my ear that we probably need to have a Shrimp Committee meeting, and so I'm just going to go ahead and add that right now. I will just stick it in here, and a SEDAR Committee. Joint Dolphin Wahoo and Snapper Grouper, something is going to be happening with that and we'll figure out -- There is going to be discussion in June further on how you're going to handle that amendment.

MS. BECKWITH: I just want to throw in a request to unjoin my Dolphin Wahoo Committee. I would like to keep my dolphin wahoo issues untied from yellowtail, and so as we go through things, I am just putting that request out there, Madam Chairman.

DR. DUVAL: Duly noted. I would just say that if we're considering development of a tool, such as in-season allocation shifts, that that has broad application to all of our managed species and it probably doesn't really matter what committee it's discussed in. It wouldn't be specific just to dolphin and wahoo, and so I would just keep that in mind.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Then we're going to be looking at a Mackerel Committee meeting and Data Collection. I haven't gotten with Myra to find out whether we need to do a Law Enforcement Committee meeting. Is there anything that needs to be followed up from today? I am thinking that that might happen. Then we'll have Executive Finance, like we usually do.

Then there's a couple of things I want to point out. We're expecting to probably do final action and comment for the South Atlantic For-Hire Amendment. We may be approving for scoping Dolphin Wahoo 10/Snapper Grouper 44, whatever sort of comes out of the meeting in June, and then we're going to probably approve for public hearings Snapper Grouper Amendment 41, Mutton Snapper. Does anybody have any questions or do you think that there might something else that we need to include that's not currently on the agenda? I am not seeing anybody.

The next thing I want to pull up is Attachment 4b, and this is the Excel spreadsheet attachment that's in the Executive Finance folder in the briefing book. Here is where we have all the different amendments that the staff is working on right now. We're in a little bit of flux, because the labeling isn't always exactly correct. Gregg became the Executive Director, and now I'm Deputy Executive Director for Management, and so my position as the staff economist is now open.

I just wanted to let you know that we are advertising now for that position and we really want to try to have somebody in place before the June meeting, and so that's sort of the goal, just to let you know. The position closes on April 1, and then we'll be acting on the applications that we've gotten at that point, and I can tell you right now that we've already gotten six applicants and the announcement just went out last week, and so we're doing okay there. I've got a feeling we're going to be getting a number of them. There's a lot of hungry economists out there these days.

What we have right here that's under my name/? and who is going to be exactly doing what is a little bit in flux until we get the personnel situation worked out, but we'll just leave it as it is right now. For each staff, we have two things that they're basically responsible for, either amendments or other activities.

What we have listed as Allocation under here right now for the 2016 four quarters is really what we're now calling Dolphin Wahoo 10/Snapper Grouper 44, but, depending on how things go, that could actually change if we end up putting all those dolphin actions into one amendment. We talked about it's going to slow the amendment down, and so we may just end up with a longer-taking amendment.

I, or whoever my replacement will be, will be doing economic analyses until that's taken care of. Kari hopefully will be able to finish up on CMP Amendment 26, but that remains to be seen. There's still a few things that are going on there, but then we are going to probably have a cobia framework amendment that she'll be doing, and then she does their social analyses.

Myra is working on a couple of amendments right now, Snapper Grouper 37 and Amendment 41, but we're looking at -- This is where I talked earlier this afternoon about whatever amendment or amendments are coming out of the visioning, this is where we need to get the priorities straight, because, right now, we initially have it as one slot for one amendment there, and this is where I was saying it would be really great if you could help prioritize whatever amendments you come up with, so that we can get them lined up on the schedule.

Now, it doesn't mean that it's just going to be that one amendment, necessarily. There may be other slots available that other staff members could help and work on a separate amendment. It just all depends on how the development of things go.

Right now, Chip is involved in Amendment 43, as we talked about earlier today, which is going to be the red snapper amendment, and we're still dealing with some issues from CE-BA 3. We've got that coral/shrimp amendment hanging out there, which is allowable fishing zones for shrimp as well as golden crab. That's on your list of things. It wasn't one of your highest priorities, and so we might want to decide how you want to deal with that.

The next one, the Gregg/Brian, is really the limbo part. This is the Deputy Executive Director for Management position, which is coming over to me. Gregg is still helping me out on different

things, but we still have the spawning SMZ amendment that is finishing up. There may be an amendment for gray triggerfish and golden tilefish. The other slot is basically the management side of the job. John is working on the for-hire amendment, plus he's got all his data and science coordination issues with SEDAR and SSC. We've got Roger down for FEP 2 and EFH/ecosystem stuff.

What we have, we've just got to figure out what some of these other amendments -- The two that I think that I see as not really set yet are how we're going to deal with the dolphin/yellowtail stuff, and that needs to be worked out. Then you've got the visioning amendments that we need to work on, and then whatever is coming out of the golden tilefish and gray triggerfish assessments. That will be fleshed out some as time goes on, but it's going to be a matter of setting some priorities. I don't know if you all are happy with this the way it is now or if you want to consider making any changes at this point, but this would be a good time to have that discussion if you wanted to do it.

DR. DUVAL: I think one thing we might want to discuss -- It was a little bit cloudy, probably, from the Joint Dolphin Wahoo/Snapper Grouper Committee meeting, is what timeframe things are moving forward on.

I think the committee's intent for consideration of an allocation tool amendment versus the broader management of the dolphin fishery, and so it sounded to me like perhaps folks were thinking that they wanted to come back in June and not vote to send anything out for scoping at this meeting in regards to an allocation shift tool, review it in June, and then make a decision as to what you would be sending out to scoping and whether or not that would be all those allocation items that we discussed yesterday, in terms of a tool plus all the larger management issues associated with the fishery, or just one versus the other.

I think that was a little bit unclear to me yesterday, as to what the intent was. That's one of the timing issues, is, the way this is set up right now on the spreadsheet, that allocation tool is one amendment that would be focused on during 2016, whereas the larger management issues for the dolphin fishery would start in 2017. If there's a desire on the part of that committee or the council to shift that around, you might want to have some discussion about that now.

MS. BECKWITH: Even if we decide to move forward with the allocation tool as its own amendment, I think the sense I got from the committee is was worth having a broader discussion on all the issues related to the fishery before deciding what to move forward with. Even if it's just the allocation amendment we move forward with first, some of the other discussions may influence or educate us on which tool we decide to move forward with. That is as clear as mud, but that's all.

MR. WAUGH: So then at the June meeting you would -- Any revisions to the allocation amendment would be discussed, but then you would review the list of actions in Amendment 11 and determine if any of those need to be moved forward or develop a recommendation on timing at the June meeting? Okay.

DR. DUVAL: Did everybody understand that? No decisions today or at this meeting on moving forward with anything for scoping related to dolphin wahoo. Instead, we will discuss the whole smorgasbord in June, and so not just allocation shift tools, but also all the issues that we talked

about in December that would pertain to the larger management of the fishery up and down the coast.

MS. MCCAWLEY: That includes yellowtail too, since yellowtail was paired with dolphin wahoo in that white paper, and so we're talking about yellowtail snapper too, right?

DR. DUVAL: I mean, yes, I think the allocation tool amendment is, again, hopefully something that could be applied to any species. I see yellowtail as being one of the two species that has prompted development of this tool, and so I think the structure of that amendment is going to have to be something where it's broadly structured and here are the two species that we wish to apply it to right now, or here are the two species that we use as examples for how it could be applied in the future.

MS. MCCAWLEY: I don't have any issue with that. I just wanted to make sure that it wasn't lost and that it was still part of that package, that's all.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I was just going to see if there were any other changes that folks wanted to -- Or direction that they want to give us on the priorities list.

DR. DUVAL: So you're clear on where we're going with the allocation tool/Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 11 stuff?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes.

MR. PHILLIPS: As far as the coral/shrimp go, I mean we've made a commitment that we would like to do that, but we have to have mapping before we can do that, and if we're going to hear some things in June about possible ways to get some mapping, maybe we can all get together and figure out how to move forward on that so we can get the data we need and do the amendment.

MR. WAUGH: That's exactly right, Charlie, and Chip, as he continues to work with folks in NOAA on other cruises, he is making them aware of our need to have some mapping done in that area, in case there is the opportunity to do some other steaming north or south.

MR. CONKLIN: Charlie took my question.

DR. DUVAL: Great minds think alike. I think the only other item, in terms of timing or number of slots that we would want to discuss, is related to our discussion from Snapper Grouper in regards to a fisheries seasonality/retention amendment or amendments. I think we can hold those four slots that we have right there. It's just a question of if the committee would like to move forward with two amendments, then which would you want to go first in the schedule?

We had three options for potentially moving forward with items, the first option being just looking at a seasonality amendment focused on the shallow-water grouper closure and the second option being having two amendments split along sector lines, where you could include both a seasonality and a retention action for each sector in each one of those.

You could look at a commercial amendment that's focused on trip limits and aggregate trip limits and potentially split seasons, and then you could have a recreational amendment that incorporates

a reexamination of aggregate bag limits and possibly start dates of recreational fishing seasons. That is sort of Option 2. You would have to make a decision as to how you would want those to be scheduled. Brian has indicated it may be that there is -- Another staff member may have slots where you could have semi-concurrent movement at the same time. That's something we could discuss.

Then the third option would be to move forward with I guess what I will call a joint retention amendment, where you're looking at roughly the same tool in the same amendment, but you have one action for one sector and one action for another sector. In other words, aggregate bag limits on the recreational side and trip limits on the commercial side. Those are the options.

I think it's probably not fair, when you look at these columns -- I guess Column L, which is the Gregg/Brian Deputy Director slot that really it's labeled Slot 10, but that's not really actually available. I mean that's really the management side of this position, as opposed to actually being available for work on an amendment, and so don't let that fool you, I guess is what I would say.

MR. PHILLIPS: Madam Chair, we can put smiley-faces in there.

DR. DUVAL: Yes, we could. Again, I think if -- You know it's not that we couldn't have two different amendments coming out of visioning if we wanted to, but it would just be a matter of just where the timing would be. One might be offset by six months versus the other, and I'm kind of -- I am sensing that people are not really ready to make a decision about timing at this point, and so when we come back at full council and we go through our Executive Finance Report, I am going to ask folks to think about that and think about how they would like to move forward, if they would like one or two amendments.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Is there any way that we can send around that Word document that we were typing up the three options on, so we can look at that further, between now and then?

DR. DUVAL: Yes, I think Amber can send that around, or ask Mike to send that around.

MR. WAUGH: A question on the golden tile and gray trigger. This was planned to use the abbreviated framework, and we haven't used that yet. That is a process that at one meeting we would bring you the economic and social and biological analyses, and the only action would be updating the catch level recommendations from the assessment updates, and no management measure changes and no bag limits or size limits. Nothing else.

That's the tradeoff for being able to do it so quickly, and so, at the last meeting, that's what we talked about. We did find out that for one or the other of these species, and Myra can provide that later, we don't have a formula set up where the MSY and the MSST comes directly from the most recent stock assessment. At some point, those values need to be updated, but it's not critical for updating the annual catch limits.

We need a little guidance on two parts of this. Would you still want to go forward with just that abbreviated framework, such that we would look at the new catch level recommendations for golden tile and gray triggerfish and approve the new ACLs at the June meeting, and then we would bring the biological, economic, and social analyses to you for that meeting, and then you approve it at that meeting. We take comments at the meeting. We would advertise that ahead of time.

You take action, and then we send that package to the Regional Office, but you can't then, at June, decide you want to change a size limit or a bag limit. We don't want to do all of the economic, biological, and social analyses ahead of time just to have you then decide at June to make some management changes or that yes, we think we need to address those other values.

DR. DUVAL: I will just remind folks that I think it's probably gray triggerfish that we don't have those values for, because I'm pretty sure we did that in Amendment 18B for golden tilefish, was setting all of those up. For triggerfish, remember that we, just last year, through Amendment 29, I think it was, in the generic accountability measures amendment, we set up a commercial split season for gray triggerfish and a trip limit in there, and we increased or we set a size limit for the remainder of the jurisdiction outside of Florida, and I think just make Florida's twelve-inch -- No, we increased it to fourteen, and was that it? Yes, and so those changes have been made, just to set the stage.

MR. PHILLIPS: That's fine, but I am envisioning that if one or the other, and if it was maybe gray triggerfish, for instance, had a huge change, then we would just change the ACLs and then we would just figure out a vehicle to change bag limits or whatever we needed to do at some later date and just figure what slot it goes in.

DR. DUVAL: The idea is like you can reward the fishermen, the stakeholders, with an increase in the ACL, assuming it turns out that way, more quickly, and then come forward with any management measures later.

MR. CONKLIN: I'm not on the committee, but I did want to go along with this approach. It's looking like gray triggerfish is going to be able to get more of those for the fishermen and stuff, and so, listening to Charlie, we need to go ahead and move forward to extend the seasons and then, if we have to later, then increase trip limits or what not.

MS. MCCAWLEY: I think that I talked about this at one of the last council meetings. FWC took an emergency action that was only temporary, waiting for this new stock assessment, and put the size limit -- We had increased the size limit to what the council did, and then we decreased it back down until the assessment could be released, and we're waiting on that stock assessment to try to figure out what is going to be the permanent size for triggerfish. I'm concerned about the timing. I understand wanting to give back and doing that in the quickest possible way, but we definitely, at least in Florida, have this issue hanging there about the size limit and we're waiting on the stock assessment.

MR. WAUGH: You will have the new stock assessment in the June briefing book, along with the SSC review of it, but I guess then you all could take a look at it, and if you wanted to change the size limit to something different than what the council has, then the council would determine when and what vehicle they would use to make that change.

DR. DUVAL: I guess I'm confused. Why would we change the size limit again when we just put it in place?

MS. MCCAWLEY: I thought it was that we put the triggerfish size limit in place as a stopgap measure because we thought the assessment was going to be bad, and so we put in a proactive size

limit. That was one of the reasons that we did that, and so I think we would want to go back and look at that.

DR. DUVAL: I'm not sure how much information we're going to have, because it's only been in place since like the end of May, and so I can't see really doing anything different. That's not in the stock assessment, because the terminal year of data in the stock assessment is through 2013 or 2014?

DR. CHEUVRONT: John, do you know the terminal year of the gray triggerfish stock assessment?

MR. CARMICHAEL: 2014.

DR. DUVAL: Okay, 2014.

MS. MCCAWLEY: What I'm saying is I don't think that there was any basis for us increasing the size limit, except for the fear that triggerfish were in trouble. If the stock assessment is coming back and it's positive, then that measure that we took, being proactive in case the fishery was in trouble, was likely not needed. That's what I'm saying. I'm not saying we're going to have an analysis on it in the stock assessment. I'm saying that if the fishery is in a lot better shape than what we thought and we took this measure proactively, then maybe we can put the size limit back, and that's what Florida did. We went in in state waters and dropped the size limit back to what it was before.

DR. DUVAL: So you increased it to fourteen and then you dropped it back to twelve?

MS. MCCAWLEY: That's exactly what we did, and we did that by emergency order, and we tried to guess when the stock assessment was going to come out and when the council could start taking action as to what we were going to come back with on a permanent basis. Yes, that's exactly what happened.

DR. DUVAL: I don't see changing the size limit throughout the range. I mean it is an inconsistency to have two different size limits in Florida versus the rest of the range. I mean I guess if you guys want to go back to twelve permanently, we can certainly find a vehicle to do that. It just seems like, rather than tie up the modifications to the ACLs, we could do that quickly and have it ready and use another vehicle to change the size limit off of Florida, if we need to.

MS. MCCAWLEY: That's fine. I was just bringing this up because of the timing of this and the timing of when the emergency action would expire at the state level, based on when we thought the stock assessment would be released and when the council was going to start taking action. I guess I would just like to, in June, consider if we're going to modify the size limit, what the vehicle is going to be and what the timing on that would be.

DR. DUVAL: Okay. Anything else on this schedule as it stands right now?

DR. CHEUVRONT: I've got one other thing that goes under Other Business, but I don't have my agenda, and so I don't know if you're ready for Other Business yet.

MR. WAUGH: No, we're not.

DR. DUVAL: The next agenda item is actually a Discussion of Standards and Procedures for Participating in Council Webinar Meetings. This was something that staff had brought to our attention back in December that they had hoped to have ready for us for review at this meeting and simply just ran out of time, and so we hoped to have a more full discussion about this in June, but, Gregg, I don't know if you or Brian want to address that or let the committee know about any of the ideas that you've had. Then if folks sitting around the table have any ideas with regard to webinar public conduct, now would be the time to sort of bring those forward.

MR. WAUGH: I can kick off a couple of thoughts, just to get some ideas from you all, to the extent that you've thought about this. Amber and Kim can feel free to jump in as well. We've got things like -- If you remember at the June meeting, one of the Gulf Council members participated in that meeting via webinar, and so is that something we want to provide for?

You all have participated in various webinar public hearings and scoping meetings. Those seem to be working very well. As Mike has pointed out to you, it saves us a lot of money. When there is a need to have someone local, we've done it with local listening stations, and that seems to have worked well. We have a council member or two there and we webinar that way.

Another question that comes up is during a council meeting -- Later on this afternoon, at 5:30, we're going to be taking public comment, and so what do you want to do -- We webinar those so people can hear the public comment, but do you want to take public comment via that webinar? That could be interesting when we get to things like red snapper and we might have fifty to a hundred people in the audience and we may have 200 people on the webinar. Those are the sort of things that have popped up, to us, right now.

Again, as Michelle said, we will have a draft policy outlining this for you all to look at, but, since we do have a little bit of time, if you all had any initial thoughts or concerns, we would certainly be interested in hearing them.

MS. MCCAWLEY: A couple of points. I think one of the questions that Gregg brought up was allowing a council member to webinar in, like what happened at the Gulf Council meeting, I believe with Harlon Pearce. I guess I would say I'm okay if a council member can't make a meeting due to an illness, but I think I have concerns about a council member being on a webinar during a council meeting and making motions. I think that that might be an issue for me. I know it was an issue during the Gulf Council meeting with Harlon Pearce.

Also, the question about if we're at a council meeting and we're doing the standard public comment, can people webinar in and we take comments from them, me personally, I think I would be against that. I would rather take the in-person folks first and then maybe use some other mechanism, some other type of webinar mechanism, to gather those additional comments of people that can't make it to the meeting in person.

DR. DUVAL: I am going to turn to our two liaisons. Leann with the Gulf Council, do you all allow public comment via webinar? I mean I know you all webcast your meetings as well, and I'm assuming that perhaps you don't at this point, or have you allowed, beyond last year, when

Harlon was ill and unable to be there in person, have you also allowed other council members to participate via webinar?

MS. BOSARGE: As far as public comment via webinar during the meetings, no, not to my knowledge. I will look to Jack and Dr. Crabtree, if he's down there, but, for the time that I've been on the council, we haven't done that during a council meeting. Now, we do have webinars that are specifically for public comment. We do that, but not during the council meeting.

We did have a discussion after that June council meeting about, and it was in committee, about what was going to be allowed and not allowed, and I think at full council -- I want to say we didn't take any action on it, but I would have to go back and look, but we did have a robust discussion. One of the things that came up that's tough sometimes is that -- Like the individual members, your recreational and commercial, as opposed to state representatives, we can't send somebody in our place. It's just not an option that we have.

If you have a baby, a couple of times, or something of that nature, where you just physically cannot be there, which I listened via webinar after my first child. Now, I didn't participate via webinar, making motions or things like that. It just didn't come up during that meeting, where it was something that I felt that I needed to make a motion on, but it is nice to know you have that option. I would have to go back and look at the minutes, but I don't think we ended up really coming to a decision either way, but we did have a robust discussion on it, but I will double-check and I will let you at full council if I'm wrong.

DR. DUVAL: Thank you, Leann. I appreciate that, and I just wanted to ask Dewey before I go over to Monica. Have you all allowed participation via webinar by a council member or public comment via the webinar during your council meeting?

MR. HEMILRIGHT: By the council members, no, but via webinar, we also have access to where the public does comment. We give a chance before mostly every vote for the public to comment. Not only that, but also the webinar, or they can listen during the council sessions. If there is comments to be made, the council staff will read the question or something like that out, and so there is public participation that's allowed during the council meetings. Not just at the end, but all throughout our meetings.

DR. DUVAL: So you allow folks who are listening on the webinar during a council meeting to ask a question or provide testimony actually at the council meeting, and so staff will read that question out loud from the webinar?

MR. HEMILRIGHT: Probably to ask questions. I don't think we have a lot of long discussion on comments, but to ask questions on different actions or the Chairman will go out to the public and see if there's anybody that has any questions on something that we're getting ready to vote on or some topic that's for discussion. Yes, there is, but as far as giving a long reading of comments, no, but questions to be asked. It's great that they're able to listen in during a webinar, which is a great thing for all of us.

MS. SMIT-BRUNELLO: I know when that issue came up with the Gulf Council member participating via webinar, there was a good bit of legal research done on what was allowed and all

that sort of thing. I would be happy to look into that and get back to you on that. I could give it to Gregg and he could maybe put it in the policy paper that he's presenting back to you all.

The other thing is that the Magnuson Act does say interested persons shall be permitted to present oral or written statements regarding the matters on the agenda at the meetings. That's what it says. I know that the Act was written, that part of it, before we had the internet and a lot of webinar availability for comments and all those sorts of things, and so I don't know whether other councils have interpreted it or -- Well, Dewey said the Mid-Atlantic does, but I would be glad to check with legal counterparts in other regions and see what they've done along those lines, too.

MR. HAYMANS: I think the key word there is "or", and so I would be more than willing to entertain written comments that come in via the webinar, because they've got that block and we could actually limit the space in which that comment is written. They have to write it in under 250 words or something, and we could be provided with a summary of that if we needed to be, electronically, the next day or overnight easily enough, I would think.

The other option is, if you did want to have verbal comment via webinar, we've got a block of time and we see how many people are lined up and, if it's more than we can handle, it's a first-come-first-served for that block of time, three minutes at a time. That's the other thing, but as far as the council participation, I wish we could get to a video link. I know that's a little more pricey, but I mean that's almost like being there.

It's really difficult to follow these meetings when you're just looking at what's being presented on the screen and listening, but the video of what's going on helps a little bit. It helps you stay in and focused on it, but I don't know that we would ever get there. We do that through Go To Webinar. It allows us to put a camera on the speaker, and your internal camera on your computer, we can see the other person, if need be, but it works pretty well that way for our meetings.

DR. DUVAL: Thoughts from other folks around the table?

MR. WAUGH: Kim may want to come up. She contacted the other councils to find out what they were doing with respect to allowing webinar comments during a council meeting.

MS. IVERSON: Thank you. Yesterday, I just sent an informal email around to my counterparts at the various councils and asked if they accepted public comment via webinar. So far, the general consensus is no. I have heard from all but the Caribbean Council, and the other councils responded that they do not accept public comment via webinar.

As a matter of a fact, I was rather surprised that the North Pacific Council, aka Alaska, doesn't webinar their meetings. It went from that to not having any public comments at all. That's just an FYI, and I kind of doubt that the Caribbean does either, but there was general consensus that they don't.

DR. DUVAL: All right. I think we've had a pretty decent discussion of folks' thoughts for staff to take back in terms of coming back in June with something that we can consider. We do have a CCC Meeting Report and then Other Business.

MR. WAUGH: The CCC meeting agenda is included as Attachment 6c, and Michelle, Charlie, and I attended. Any of you that know Kitty and Don McIsaac, there's a little bit of entertainment involved there, but Don McIsaac is the Pacific Executive Director. He's been there for quite a number of years, and he's retiring. They're in the process of hiring another executive director, and he's going to be working on a part-time basis and helping with that process. We were able to provide him and their chair some input on the process we went through, and so it will be interesting to see how they end up doing that.

There was a link in the overview that takes you to the CCC page on the NMFS website that has all the briefing materials. If you all are interested, you can look at our overview and click that link. It has all the presentations there. I am certainly not going to go into that level of detail, but they're all there.

In terms of the budget, I mentioned that there was a slight increase to cover for rising costs. Our portion of that was \$76,000. Again, once we get the final spend plan, we will come back to you in June with a draft budget. The legislative outlook, several congressional staffers were there and talked about the work that's been done on Magnuson Act reauthorization. The House has passed their version of the bill. They are working with the Senate, but, as everyone knows, there's a lot of political activity ongoing now with the presidential election and lots of other individuals are up for election, and so they're not too sure anything is going to happen with Magnuson this year.

Dave Whaley is under contract with the eight councils. Each of us are sharing the annual cost for him, just to funnel information to us. Obviously we can't lobby, and we're very careful not to, but he's just letting us know when hearings are occurring and what happens and just keeping us abreast of what's going on.

George LaPointe gave an update on the electronic monitoring. Remember he gave us a report, and there are regional electronic monitoring and electronic reporting plans. The next update will be done in May of this year, and so he was very complimentary of the work that Andy and the region has done with the three councils down here. He said that plan was one of the more complete plans for any of the regions.

That's important, because that's something that -- That's one thing that the agency will use to determine how they distribute some of the funding. Jane DiCosimo, who gave us a report at our last meeting, she talked about the observer program and electronic monitoring funding updates.

There is about \$7-million in the proposed budget for electronic monitoring. We asked about what portion of that is coming down to the Southeast, and that level of detail has not been discussed yet. We feel, in talking with Michelle and Charlie, it's important for us to get a word in there that we've got work ongoing.

We've got a headboat program down here. We're talking about a charter vessel monitoring program, and our commercial fishermen are very interested in converting the paper logbook to electronic. We've got some draft wording here that would have the council send a letter to Eileen Sobeck, who is the Assistant Administrator, just indicating that we have activities down here that we need funding for to go to the Southeast Region and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to implement headboat, charter vessel, and commercial electronic reporting and requesting clarification on how much of that \$7-million in funding will be available for work in the South

Atlantic Council's area. We wanted to have some discussion about that and hopefully a motion to send such a letter.

DR. DUVAL: Does anyone have questions or comments or thoughts on the council sending a letter just reiterating the needs that we have in the South Atlantic Region for moving forward with some of our electronic reporting priorities?

DR. CRABTREE: I just want to let you all know that we have also, in the Regional Office, sent communications up to Headquarters making them aware of our needs in the Southeast on electronic reporting, both here and in the Gulf. We're trying to look out for you guys and make sure some of that money makes it down here.

DR. DUVAL: Do you think it would be helpful for the council to also express its support?

DR. CRABTREE: It certainly would not hurt.

DR. DUVAL: That's what I was looking for.

DR. PONWITH: To that very point, the commissions are working on regional plans for recreational implementations plans for the region, and those plans will set forth priorities for the region. If you have an interest in pursuing electronic reporting for the recreational fleet, it would be really, really important for that to be reflected in those regional plans.

We met with the state directors last week, and the interstate commission folks were there. This was highlighted again, of understanding what the collective thinking is on the role of electronic reporting for recreational is important, and, again, making sure that that is reflected in those regional priorities is very, very helpful.

MR. COX: I was just going to say we absolutely need to get our hands on some of that \$7-million to help with some software development and different types of stuff, because when I did the pilot program for the electronic reporting for the commercial, I got such an old, outdated computer to work off of that it was very cumbersome to carry on the boat and stuff, and so we definitely need some money.

DR. DUVAL: That sounds like you're anxious to make a motion. Well, actually you can't, because you're not on the committee. Charlie.

MR. PHILLIPS: Madam Chair, I'm on the committee. **I will make the motion that we write the letter.**

DR. DUVAL: Can you see the text that Brian had?

MR. PHILLIPS: **Motion that the council send a letter to Eileen Sobeck, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, indicating the need for funding to the SERO SEFSC to implement headboat, charter vessels, and commercial electronic reporting and requesting clarification on how much of the \$7-million in funds for electronic monitoring/reporting will be available for the work in the South Atlantic Council's area.**

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Charlie. Is there a second? Second by Jessica. Any other discussion on this motion? **Is there any objection to this motion? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

MR. WAUGH: Thank you. Next, we had a bycatch strategy update by Sam Rauch, and all that information is available from the website, too. I'm not going to go into any detail, because I don't want to steal Jack's thunder tomorrow when he shares this with us in Data.

Adam Eisenberg gave us a presentation on council conflict of interest, and he was asked to go back and research some more and bring this back to the May CCC meeting, but there is a 10 percent rule, and I'm sure we could get some clarification from Monica, should we need it, but, just to make you all aware, they do apply this 10 percent interest in an affected fishery or sector. Certainly one that comes to mind, came to my mind immediately, was black sea bass pot endorsements. If an individual was to have more than 10 percent of those endorsements, then this conflict of interest rule could be triggered.

It was interesting too in terms of how it affects a corporation. If there are multiple people owning a corporation, that they attribute all of what is owned by that corporation to one individual, and so there is quite a bit of discussion about it and Adam was asked -- It was asked for the councils to have another opportunity to comment on that, and that will happen at the May CCC meeting. Charlie, I didn't know if there was anything else you wanted to add to that. Okay.

Then we got in a Catch Share Program Review Guidance, and one of the things that was discussed there, and the folks in the agency were very apologetic, but they hit the councils with a lot of comments for a lot of different things, because they're getting to the end of an administration and there's lots of policies and so forth that need to be wrapped up.

One of them was this Catch Share Program Review Guidance, and we didn't have an opportunity to comment on it, because that came in prior to a council meeting, but a number of the other councils have commented on it, and this doesn't get into whether you're for or against catch shares. What this talks about is if you have a catch share program in place, what you have to do to periodically review that.

I asked if our wreckfish was included in that, and it is, and so the next item we have, in terms of a motion for you to give us some guidance, is to send a letter commenting, and this would go to Alan Risenhoover, commenting on the Catch Share Program Review Guidance. Again, it doesn't have anything to do with whether you're for or against it. There's a lot of detailed analyses about, if you think of our wreckfish ITQ program, analyzing how that's worked.

The concern that all the other councils have expressed is that there's a lot of detail in there, almost like a NEPA analysis, and you would have to look at perhaps alternatives to that approach. They are very concerned about the workload this would generate on staff, and so we had a lot of discussion about that. The agency, and Alan, agreed to revise -- They will consider those comments and revise that and bring it back to the CCC at the May meeting, but we would like to have your guidance to go ahead and submit some comments echoing what the other councils have said, just in terms of workload. Again, this would just be applicable to our wreckfish ITQ program and it doesn't get into whether you're for or against catch shares.

DR. DUVAL: On this one, I think most of the other councils have sort of done the hard work for us, definitely, and the level of detail of those comments on that review policy, and so I think, if a member of the committee is willing to make a motion to that regard, to allow us to send forward a letter commenting on that, that would be great.

MR. HARTIG: I move that the council send a letter to Alan Risenhoover, Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, commenting on the Catch Share Program Review Guidance.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Ben and second by Jessica. Any other discussion on that? **Is there any objection to that motion? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

MR. WAUGH: Thank you, and you can see those other council comment letters on that website as well. Then we got a NMFS science update addressing climate strategy, ecosystem-based management, stock assessment prioritization, a presentation from AFS, where they are really trying to put together a package for presentation to the incoming administration, whoever they are.

There was a lot of concern expressed about how the agency may not be able to participate in that, because it could be construed as lobbying, but one thing we thought is we could send them our vision blueprint and our Citizen Science blueprint, after we get through it, so that they have those as resources to prepare, but AFS is reaching out to lots of different groups.

Then Michelle gave a presentation on our Citizen Science Program, and that's in your briefing book also, and that was very well received. The other councils are interested and they're glad to have a guinea pig to go out first. We have made our pitch to the NMFS leadership that we volunteer to be the guinea pig, and we feel we've done a good job with SEDAR and we would like them to contribute some funding to get this program started administratively.

It was interesting, and in the red snapper materials in your briefing book, there is some discussion -- Some questions were raised about red snapper in particular. In the response, Eileen did state that they are coordinating with the South Atlantic Council on a Citizen Science Program, and so we're very encouraged that they're coordinating with us, and now we're pushing to find out in what form and how many dollars are going to be associated with that coordination, but it's exciting. They are very enthused about it as well.

Then the rest of the meeting was just trying to sort out CCC workgroups that Michelle and others participate on, and there is a National EFH Summit coming up in May that we will be participating in as well. I don't know if Michelle and Charlie want to offer anything else.

DR. DUVAL: I guess I would say, in regards to the EFH Summit, that is going to be May 17, 18, and 19. It's a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We received an invitation letter from the staff at the Fisheries Forum requesting that we name participants by April 1, three to five participants who are interested from our council. Roger is going to be participating on behalf of staff, but if there are other council members who have an interest in going to that, please let Gregg or I know, so that we can be sure to put your name forward as a potential participant. There is a website that they have that's been set up that will be populated for folks to register and things like that.

MR. PHILLIPS: I will comment that your presentation and what we've done on Citizen Science was very well received by everybody there, and so they are looking for us to do it, and I'm kind

of like Gregg. I'm wondering if their support is a pat on the back and an attaboy, or if it's going to be something more green. Should we write them a letter and ask them, or I'm not sure how to approach that.

MR. WAUGH: We have already sent information to Dr. Merrick right after the Citizens Science Workshop, and we have forwarded that to Eileen. Michelle and I talked briefly with Eileen at the meeting, and, after that, I sent another follow-up, and so we'll keep on it. I don't think we need to send another letter. They know, and it's working through the system, but we'll keep reminding them of how we're collaborating.

DR. DUVAL: We did get a lot of questions from other council members in other regions about the program and lots of great comments just after the presentation. Really they are being enthusiastic about sort of a council taking the lead on this type of approach, and so it was good. Does that wrap us up for CCC? Then we have the items of Other Business.

MR. WAUGH: The first one, in terms of committee structure, is back when we did the dolphin wahoo plan, we offered and had a seat, voting seat at the committee level, for the New England Fishery Management Council and the Mid-Atlantic Council. They participated as voting members at the committee level.

I have sent an email to those two EDs reminding them of that and telling them what's going on with dolphin and wahoo and also reporting. We've got Dewey here representing the Mid-Atlantic Council, and Tom indicated that he will talk with his chair to see who from New England might be a liaison. They may not attend all meetings. We do send our briefing material to the EDs, but then if there's a liaison appointed, even if they don't attend each meeting, we can send the material to them and keep them briefed on what's going on, but we want to use that as a vehicle to coordinate with the New England folks on dolphin and wahoo in particular, but then also our reporting activities.

Then, for Mackerel, we had -- With the Mid-Atlantic, when we extended our management up through their area, we gave them two voting seats on the Mackerel Committee, and I know at times in the past they've sent two people. Again, it's up to them who they want to send and how many, but I just wanted to reiterate that we do have two seats for them.

Then Snapper Grouper, I thought we had two, but I did go back to some of the older directories and it was one seat for the Mid-Atlantic voting on the Snapper Grouper Committee. I just talked with Michelle and I just wanted to surface this again and see if you all are still comfortable with that. Are you interested, since there's going to be so much more interaction with the Mid-Atlantic on snapper grouper species, do you want to increase that to two voting seats or leave it at one? That's where we're looking for some guidance.

DR. DUVAL: All right. What do you all think?

MR. BELL: In the original construct, was there kind of a formula or something we were applying, where it was two versus one, just because of more interest in the fishery or -- I mean how did we come up with that in the first place?

MR. WAUGH: I think with dolphin wahoo that it was just there weren't a lot of catches at that time in the Mid-Atlantic, and very limited in New England, but there were some, and so what we did was just give them one seat at committee. I think on Mackerel that the thought was, since we really are extending management up through there and making the decisions through there, it was more important for them to have more participation, and so we gave them two seats.

I don't recall there being any formula other than that. Since we were setting regulations in the Mid-Atlantic, we thought they should have a little more involvement. The catches were higher, and then Snapper Grouper, we talked several years ago about extending our management unit through the Mid-Atlantic area and then decided not to, and so we kept that just at one seat.

MR. HEMILRIGHT: Some of the difficulties that we have is our meeting schedules with the Mid-Atlantic and the South Atlantic. I think this year we meet twice. Two of our meetings are at the same time as you all's meeting schedule, and so there's a difference there, but I would say that one is probably good enough, because the marching orders are the discussion from our council. It's going to be a directive on the person that sits in here and gives comments at the committee level. I don't see a need in being repetitious with two, because, even though the committee is giving comments and voting on something, it is incumbent upon the full council to decide on whether to go forward with that, but it is the meeting schedule that we have conflicts with.

It's also very good, by getting all the committee reports and everything that Mike sends out, to forward them on to the New England Council. I've got one other question. How about if cobia closes in New York? Is it open north in New England year-round?

DR. DUVAL: I believe that management unit only extends through New York, and so in the New England Council area of jurisdiction, there is no regulation or management whatsoever.

MR. HEMILRIGHT: I just had a fellow council member from the Mid-Atlantic ask me that, and so I was just wondering. Thank you.

DR. DUVAL: Thanks for that input, Dewey. That's appreciated, and so it is our June council meetings that overlap again this year?

MR. HEMILRIGHT: Yes, it is, and also -- I've got to check again, but it is the June council meeting.

DR. DUVAL: I know December overlapped in 2015, just because of the way things had been set up.

MR. HEMILRIGHT: It doesn't this year, I don't believe. I will look on my calendar.

MR. PHILLIPS: If they think one is fine, then that's fine with me, too.

DR. DUVAL: All right.

MR. WAUGH: Okay, and so we will keep that. It might be good to have two of them on Mackerel. You could share the cobia fun.

DR. CHEUVRONT: One of the things that I wanted to bring up -- This is something that occurs fairly regularly as staff are developing amendments. When we are initially putting together actions with alternatives, we always put in Alternative 1, which is no action, and then that is truly the status quo, and we have to state in there what the status quo is, but sometimes, over the development of an amendment, that needs to be refined.

Typically, what we do now is we bring that alternative back to the council and the council votes on it. That's not really something that -- The council can't vote it down if it's actually the status quo, because it is what it is. What we were thinking of asking you all to do is be able just to give staff blanket editorial license to edit Alternative 1, no action, for alternatives across all FMPs and actions, so we just don't have to bring that back to you every time.

It would save a few minutes here and there, but, over time, it could save a fair amount of time that you don't have to approve the rewording of the status quo because somebody forgot something that -- Well, one of the things that happened is we were talking about trip limits for dolphin. We were talking about trip limits for dolphin, and we said that there was no trip limit in place for dolphin. That's true in the South Atlantic, but it's not true north of the South Atlantic, and so we had to go back and we had to revise the Alternative 1, no action, and we brought it back to you because there is the 200-pound trip limit that is north of North Carolina if you don't have a dolphin wahoo permit.

We had to make that revision, and those kinds of things happen on occasion. What we're just asking you to do, as we discover these things as we're developing amendments, if you would just go ahead and give us blanket editorial license, and this only applies to the no action alternative. We are not asking for any other alternatives, to allow staff to modify those, but it's just these ones that represent status quo. What I did is I wrote up a proposed motion that you all might want to consider that would, in essence, give that editorial license to the staff to deal with it. I just wanted to bring that before you and see what you all thought about it.

DR. DUVAL: I am all for efficiency.

MR. BREWER: As am I, but, Brian, I'm not sure -- You're still going to have verbiage as to what the status quo is, because, a lot of times, it really helps me, as the new guy, to see how much of a change are we making or looking at with a particular action.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Exactly. Alternative 1, no action, is always going to be there. It's just that sometimes when we're, especially in the initial stages of developing actions and alternatives, having been there, we tend to focus sometimes on the non-status quo alternatives and we work real hard on those. Initially, we might just give it a little bit of lip service, to status quo, or else we find something that we hadn't remembered that somebody like Monica reminds us about. She has done that on a number of occasions.

It's still going to be there, but it's just that this is just asking for us to be allowed to update that as we discover things that need to be done, without having to come back to you every time, like we normally do for any other changes for alternatives.

MR. HAYMANS: I'm not on the committee, but I would be good with that if there was just a simple note at the end of that saying "revised since". Just something that notes the fact that it was revised by staff that we could pay attention to.

DR. DUVAL: Good call. Any other thoughts on this? Is anybody willing to make this motion?

MS. MCCAWLEY: **I move that we allow staff to modify Alternative 1, no action, for all actions in all amendments, as necessary, to reflect the true status quo without requiring council approve for each change.**

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Jessica. Is there a second? Second by Ben. Any discussion? **Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.**

MR. WAUGH: The final item I wanted to do was just mention briefly, and show you briefly -- I am not going to go through this in any detail. I will have Mike send this around, but in the future Executive Finance meetings, you will have a report from the Executive Director. It will just give you all a status of what your staff has been working on.

I did put this together, and it kind of explained why January and February were a blur. You gave us three amendments that we finished up, and we certainly heaped a lot of reading material on Michelle in February, late February too, right before the council meeting, to get those done. While we dust our hands off that those three are finished, our partners in the Region now have three more in their pipeline to work on.

This will be in future briefing books, and it gives you an idea. We did public hearings and scoping meetings. We had the Coordinating Council Meeting and the prep for this meeting. What's been going on in SEDAR and the SSC and the final amendments that I talked about. Hiring Deputy Executive Directors and advertising and communications and outreach.

I think it just helps you all have an idea of what we're doing, and certainly if in the future you see we're spending too much time on something that you don't want us to, it will give you a mechanism to give us some feedback as well, but I will have this sent around. In the future, this will be in the briefing book.

One of the things I've already talked with Brian about is working to really get the material in the June briefing book two weeks before. I have talked about this with John, too. We now have a sort of senior management team in place: myself, Mike, John, and Brian. We meet before each of our staff meetings, but we obviously didn't do a very good job of getting all the material to you ahead of this meeting, but, in our self-defense, with three amendments and the level of meetings, it was too much to try to do, but we are still headed in that direction and we're going to do everything we can to enforce that for the June meeting.

I want to use this as a vehicle too for you all to give us any ongoing guidance as to how we're operating. I know in the past we sort of waited and did an annual review of the ED, but I want to have a way for you all to give us some more feedback throughout the year as to how things are progressing, and so you will have this, and, if you have any comments, feel free to ask me any questions or give me any feedback, positive or negative.

DR. DUVAL: Thanks for that, Gregg. I think that will be really helpful for folks to see what has been taking up you all's time as we move between council meetings. I think that will be helpful, definitely. Is there anything else to come before Executive Finance?

MR. HARTIG: Several things. One is thanks for the CCC Report. I like the way you went through the agenda, because I mean that brings up anything that you guys thought of as you go through this to comment on, and I like the way you did that. I appreciate that, and, if we have time at other meetings, I would appreciate you doing that as well. The other thing was when does the South Atlantic Council have their turn in the rotation to host the CCC?

DR. DUVAL: It's the Caribbean Council this year. Then in 2017, it's New England. Then in 2018, it's the North Pacific. After that, I think it's the South Atlantic.

MR. HARTIG: Okay, and then, lastly, one of the things I would like to have the council think about is we've gone through the visioning on snapper grouper. When do we do visioning on some of our other fisheries that are pretty important? When I made the determination, I said we should include it all as one and it was said, no, we'll do those at a later date, and so here it is. A later date. I mean just keep in mind that that's not going away and there's a number of king mackerel fishermen back there who have a number of issues that they have chewed on for a number of years and they would like to air those and possibly get some resolution.

DR. DUVAL: My flip response is we would still all be in the middle of the visioning process if we had included all of our species, but, no, that's a valid comment, Ben, and I know that you and Doug were two folks who had said that we should do this for all of our managed species. The rationale around the table at the time was some of the issues with regard to snapper grouper were bigger and more complex and sort of unique, just given the broad mix of species with their different life histories that are in that complex. We felt like that was enough to bite off at one time.

Personally, I see all the issues that we discussed back in September and December with regard to Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 11 as almost like a mini visioning process for that fishery, because we've had an event last year that caused us to think more comprehensively about how we manage that fishery, because we are making decisions for folks operating up and down the coast. We heard a lot of comment from folks operating in the distant waters fleets about their needs and how they interact with those species, and I think it might be a good idea to -- I am just thinking off the top of my head, without having asked you or staff or anybody else, but I think that perhaps starting with the advisory panel and getting their input on sort of a vision for the mackerel fishery.

There have been a lot of issues that have come up over the past couple of years, between both the Gulf and the South Atlantic, of traveling fishermen and the seasonality of the fishery and how to, I think, maximize access and the benefit of the resource to everyone. There's a lot of different things that have come up, and I certainly think mackerel is ripe for something like that. I guess my suggestion might be to, maybe at a Mackerel Advisory Panel meeting, consider having sort of a facilitated discussion that staff has done for us with snapper grouper, in a similar fashion. That's just off the top of my head.

MR. HARTIG: I think I will get together with Kari and maybe come up with a more informal way to accomplish the same thing. I've got some ideas, and I'm sure she does too. She is smiling.

DR. DUVAL: I think it might, again, more thinking off the cuff, which is always dangerous, but I think it might be good to reach out to our counterparts in the Gulf, because we do manage this fishery together, and get their ideas and input. I am sure council members and staff from the Gulf might have some thoughts as well about how we can harmonize our relationship, so to speak.

MR. WAUGH: Ben, I mentioned that we will be bringing a draft budget to you in June. What we can do too is talk at the staff level about what could be done with mackerel for this year and bring some options to you to look at in June, because it certainly makes a lot of sense. There is some overlap with mackerel and snapper grouper and timing as well, and so we can put together some options for how we could address and accomplish that visioning, and certainly you getting with Kari will help and then we'll get with Amber, but we will bring something to you in June so that you can give us some further guidance.

DR. DUVAL: Anything else to come before Executive Finance? Ben, you had said you had several things and that was only two.

MR. HARTIG: No, that was several. I got them all. Thank you so much.

DR. DUVAL: Thank you. I have 4:09 P.M. on my clock. I am going to go ahead and suggest that we take a fifteen-minute break, and I'm going to confer with a couple of folks regarding what we might want to tackle next. I do see our esteemed Mackerel Advisory Panel Chair out in the audience, and so we might be able to make our way through the Mackerel Committee agenda, through the advisory panel report, before we take public testimony this evening, which is scheduled for 5:30, but I will just talk to a couple of folks around the table, and so come back in fifteen minutes, please. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned on March 9, 2016.)

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

Transcribed By:
Amanda Thomas
April 1, 2016

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**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council –
March 2016 Council Meeting
Jekyll Island, GA**

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016

Committee: Executive Finance

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Gary Zurn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> NGO <input type="checkbox"/>	
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**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council –
March 2016 Council Meeting
Jekyll Island, GA**

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016

Committee: Executive Finance

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		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
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		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
		Charter/For-hire <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ <i>Describe</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> On File	Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
		Recreational <input type="checkbox"/>	Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>
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