

# **SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

## **EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Westin Jekyll Island  
Jekyll Island, Georgia**

**March 6-7, 2019**

### **SUMMARY MINUTES**

#### **Executive Finance Committee**

Jessica McCawley, Chair  
Chester Brewer  
Steve Poland

Mel Bell, Vice Chair  
Doug Haymans

#### **Council Members**

Anna Beckwith  
Chris Conklin  
Tim Griner  
Stephen Poland  
Spud Woodward

Dr. Kyle Christiansen  
Dr. Roy Crabtree  
LCDR. Jeremy Montes  
David Whitaker

#### **Council Staff**

Gregg Waugh  
John Carmichael  
Dr. Mike Errigo  
Kim Iverson  
Roger Pugliese  
Christina Wiegand

Dr. Brian Chevront  
Cierra Graham  
John Hadley  
Kelly Klasnick  
Cameron Rhodes

#### **Observers and Participants**

Dr. Clay Porch  
Rick DeVictor  
Monica Smit-Brunello

Dr. Jack McGovern  
Greg Stunz

Other observers and participants attached.

The Executive Finance Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened at the Westin Jekyll Island, Jekyll Island, Georgia, Wednesday afternoon, March 6, 2019, and was called to order by Chairman Jessica McCawley.

DR. CHEUVRONT: We have, in this discussion for Executive Finance right now -- For the last several months, we've had -- I would send you a link to a Survey Monkey questionnaire for you to rate the different amendments and things that the council has going on, based on what you think the council should be working on for the next council meeting, but one of the things that we wanted to have a discussion about today was how do we include things like white papers and options papers into this listing. Now, I'm assuming, Madam Chair, that you would probably like to include those as part of the survey, which is fine, and I can add those things in, but I didn't know how much discussion or what kind of discussion you wanted to have about that.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Thanks, Brian. I think that, at the past few meetings, we have directed staff to complete a number of different white papers, or options papers, and, to me, those take a considerable amount of time, maybe equal time, as what an amendment takes, and since part of this system is for figuring out staff's workload and what could possibly come to the next meeting, it just seemed a little strange to me that we were only focusing on the amendments and not also including the amount of time that it was going to take for staff and the council to consider the white papers and other research projects that you guys had worked on, but I would look around to the committee, to see if anybody else had the same thought. Do we want to focus only on amendments, or are we okay adding in all these other options papers as well?

MR. BREWER: We have seen some pretty detailed white papers that took a lot of time to put together, and so I think that it would only make sense that they would be considered in a ranking, because, I mean, we've kind of come to the point where we figure, if we ask for a white paper, we're going to see that at the next meeting, and so some of it is pretty detailed stuff, and sometimes there's a lot of controversy involved in this, because we'll get to something that is controversial, and we'll kick it to a white paper, so that we can at least consider it more. I think that it makes all the sense in the world that those things be put in the white papers, or that the white papers be put in for consideration of staff time.

MR. BELL: Yes, I agree with that. I mean, it's no small amount of work, some of these things, and, eventually, out of them, sometimes we move towards an amendment or something, but it certainly should be considered, because it can be a pretty good workload on staff.

MR. POLAND: I agree, because I feel like it would be more considerate to the staff, because we prioritize and work on amendments, and then they've got white papers in addition to that, that we're not considering.

MS. MCCAWLEY: What else do you need from us? Now that you know we want to consider the white papers, you will go in and add that to the survey that we'll complete, and is that how this works?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Actually, I'm going to ask the tech staff right now, and, if you're aware of any new white papers, options papers, that you've been directed to do at this meeting, I may not have captured all of those, and so if you could send me an email with those, and I can include them in the survey, because the plan will be that, by the end of the day today, I will send you an email

with an link to the Survey Monkey, and it will have all those things in it, and I will need you all to fill that out overnight, and, if you don't, I can approach you all tomorrow about it.

Then, when we get to Executive Finance, we'll have the discussion of what those priorities will be, and I believe Executive Finance is scheduled for tomorrow, in the early afternoon or something, and I don't remember exactly, but I want to have all those data and everything ready for you to have that discussion.

MS. MCCAWLEY: All right. Sounds good. Thanks for working on that for us, Brian. We are going to go back to the Committee of the Whole for the last couple of items.

(Whereupon, the meeting recessed on March 6, 2019.)

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March 7, 2019

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

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The Executive Finance Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council reconvened at the Westin Jekyll Island, Jekyll Island, Georgia, Thursday afternoon, March 7, 2019, and was called to order by Chairman Jessica McCawley.

MS. MCCAWLEY: We are in Executive Finance. Let me read who is on this committee. It's myself, Mel Bell, Chester Brewer, Doug Haymans, and Steve Poland. The first order of business is Approval of the Agenda. Are there any changes or modification to the agenda? Are there any objections to approval of the agenda? Seeing none, the agenda stands approved.

The next order of business is Approval of the February 2019 Webinar Committee Minutes. Any changes to those webinar minutes? Any objection to approval of those minutes? Seeing none, the minutes stand approved. Next up is the Status of the 2019 and 2020 CCC Meetings, and I'm going to turn it over to Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Attachment 1 lays out the schedules for the 2019 and 2020 meeting dates. We also have some background information there for the host responsibility, and, generally, we have a February CCC meeting, and that was rescheduled due to the government closure, and so that's now been rescheduled for November 5 through 7.

Our May meeting that we host in Charleston, and this is the annual meeting, is May 13 through the 16<sup>th</sup>, and that's at the Francis Marion, and you can see which council members are slated to attend those. If you want to attend that, you can contact the Council Chair to see if you can attend those meetings, if you are interested.

Something that is sort of a heads-up that will be discussed at the next CCC meeting is there was a concern that the February and then May -- You've got two meetings very close together, and the idea was to try and spread those out, and so the proposal from the Executive Directors is to have

one meeting, the May meeting, still be the one that's hosted by the host council, and, in 2020, that would be the West Pacific, and they are looking at May 26 through 29, and then, for the D.C. meeting, doing that from September 22 through 25, and so pencil those dates in. That's something that will be proposed to the CCC at the May meeting, to get their approval. Again, that is the 2020 dates. I don't know if there is any questions or any comments on that at this stage.

MR. HAYMANS: I can coordinate with Jessica, and I'm not going to charge the council, or wouldn't charge the council, anything, but, if I look at the agenda and there is a particular day that I'm interested in, would it be okay that I come? I am not going to take up anybody's seat or anything, and I will come at my state cost.

MR. WAUGH: Yes, and I think it's a good opportunity for council members to meet other councils and see a lot of people there, and I think it's something -- We have a little bit of money, and so I think it would be a good opportunity for council members who are interested to get with Jessica and let her know, and then I will work with Jessica for you all to attend, and it's a good opportunity. This is the one in Charleston.

MS. MCCAWLEY: If nobody has anything else on that, we're going to move into the second item, which is the Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization, and I'm going to turn it over to Gregg.

MR. WAUGH: The Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 was signed into law on December 31, 2018, and it includes improving recreational data collection through avenues such as smartphone apps and allowing additional management tools that are more appropriate for recreational fishing and requiring studies of allocations in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico mixed-use fisheries and limited access programs in the mixed-use fisheries, and so we'll have some studies coming forward that we will be able to look at in the near future.

We have asked if there is any guidance for how -- We generally get guidelines on how to conform to the existing Magnuson Act, and guidance will be coming. The agency is waiting for some more guidance from the administration. We have already begun to work on items that are included in the Modern Fish Act. MyFishCount is a recreational reporting website and application for smartphones, and it allows anglers to report their catch, and our pilot project that was developed in partnership with Angler Action Foundation and Elemental Methods was funded by NOAA Fisheries. It has over 800 users, to date, and we're going to promote that again prior to this red snapper season.

For-hire reporting, we'll hear later today or tomorrow, we're about to implement charter vessel electronic reporting, and we've had headboat electronic reporting, and, in terms of collaboration, you all heard the results of the recreational -- We had the recreational workshop at our September meeting, and they held additional workshops, and we got the report from them at this meeting.

Congress will be working on new bills to reauthorize the MSA, and we talked some about the Senate staff draft at the last meeting, and that is still out there. The House is going to come up with a very different bill, and so we thought we would still send in some comments on what is in the Senate bill, and we're not going to go through it here today, but just, if you all have any suggestions that you want addressed, if you get those to me by the end of next week, say close of business on March 15, then we'll draft a letter and send that in. A number of the other councils have commented on that, what's in that bill, but, again, the Senate will be looking at one thing,

and the House the other, and, as they introduce bills and we're asked to comment, we will use our CCC working paper to address those comments. Madam Chair, that's all I had on that topic, and I don't know that there's any interest in talking about anything in the Senate draft at this time.

MS. MCCAWLEY: If there aren't any questions or discussion about that draft, if you wouldn't mind taking a look at that, and, if you have any comments, to send those into Gregg by March 15, which is next Friday.

MR. BELL: The 2b, which is one of our -- That's the most up-to-date, and that is what we should look at, right?

MR. WAUGH: That's correct.

MS. MCCAWLEY: All right. Let's move on to the CCC Working Paper.

MR. WAUGH: Again, this is a document that shows the councils' consensus position and then each council's regional positions. We addressed a lot of topics, and it's gotten to be long, and there's been some interest in trying to shorten it, but you never know what is going to be introduced in a bill, and so it's nice to have this document, and it lays out -- It's quite a broad range of topics, and we have even added some for aquaculture, more recently, and so this is a document that we update periodically, and it's very helpful for educating new staffers and new congressional folks on the various views of the councils, particularly councils that are in their area, and they can see the regional views and where there are collective views.

I updated that document. There was one item that did not get updated, and that's on page 70, and so, if we look at that, and I will scroll down on the screen to that, and I just need to get -- We need to get approval of this wording. It deals with cooperative research, and our South Atlantic perspective is up there.

We had some discussion about VMS, and the direction was to make clear that the council is not proposing to use VMS at this time, and so what we're modifying is beginning here with: "The South Atlantic Councils believes that partnering with stakeholders to use fishing vessels to deploy acoustic or other marine technology, expanding the use of electronic catch reporting programs and technology, and improving monitoring and observer coverage through the expanded use of electronic monitoring devices (excluding VMS), would be very helpful."

Now, in the future, as that technology changes, we may come back and revisit that, and we may be more inclined, and then we can modify our statement, and then we're proposing to modify the last sentence, so that it reads: "The South Atlantic Council believes that working with stakeholders and using innovative technologies is essential to address current and anticipated data needs." We would be looking for some discussion and approval of that wording.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Are there any comments to this wording that's on the board here? Once again, this is just listing out the direction that we've given in the past about excluding VMS, particularly. Are we good with this? I see heads nodding. Are we okay with this, or do we have concerns? It looks like heads are nodding that we're okay with this. Okay. Yes.

MR. WAUGH: Okay. That was the only change to the document. As I've said before, we are responsible for our regional perspective, and so we can change that at any time. If you have concerns with any of the CCC consensus positions, you can raise them with us prior to that May meeting, because that's an opportunity that the whole CCC is together, and that's where we get approval of the consensus statements.

Everybody is in agreement that each council puts in their own regional perspectives and are responsible for updating those, and so I will send this update to Dave Witherell at the North Pacific, and he's the one tracking this now, and so that will be incorporated into a later version that is put on the all-council website and is available for use with the other councils, and so that was it on the CCC working paper, unless someone has a question.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Well, you mentioned that -- Dave will put it on the website, but, really, the South Atlantic Council is responsible for updating this, or keeping this paper updated for all of 2019, right, since we're the lead this year?

MR. WAUGH: Well, we're the host council, but this task generally has fallen to the Chair of the Legislative Committee, and so that's why he will be tracking that. He will make that change and put it on the all-council website, and then that will be the version that we all use.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Okay. Excellent. Thanks for that explanation. Any more questions on that CCC document? All right. Next up is the Draft Calendar Year January through December 2019 Operational Budget. I am going to turn it back over to Gregg and to Kelly.

MR. WAUGH: Thank you. When the Executive Finance Committee met via webinar, we went through a lot of detail, and there was agreement that what we do is put together this summary table, and these categories correspond to our categories in our five-year grant, and we were asked to put in a column for last year's expenditures, so that you could see and have something to compare to, and there is a column showing expanded year-to-date, and this was run as of February 14, and then a percent of this year's budget, and then what is obligated towards the end of the year.

We also have a more detailed table that was used at the meeting that shows the detailed categories, and, if you see these letters in the first column, the "P" refers to personnel here, and the "F" is for the fringe, and so that's how these numbers get transferred into this more abbreviated table.

What the committee did, and Kelly is here, and we can go through, if you have any questions about any of these categories, and we would be glad to go through them, and the committee approved this as a draft operational budget for Calendar Year 2019, and we don't know our final award amount yet, and we hope to know that by the May CCC meeting, hopefully, and so we will be coming back to you in June and probably asking for some guidance on how we handle the additional funds, should we receive additional funds.

This is the last year of our current five-year grant, and so we're starting -- We will be working on and bringing to you, to the Executive Finance Committee for some input, the next five-year budget document, and so we want to be careful and make sure we do have some money that we can carry over into the next year, and they are supposed to get us our money at the start of the new five-year grant cycle, but it wouldn't hurt to -- If we can't get everything done in this five-year grant, we can carry some over into that first year of the next grant.

You will notice that our initial budget amount is higher than what we got last year, and we went over this in committee. Generally, when we start budgeting, we budget based on those activities schedules that are included in here as Attachments 4b and 4c.

Personnel costs and office rent and that sort of thing are your fixed costs, and your variable costs come from the activities schedules, and those activities schedules are completed based on your guidance as to which amendments you want to work on, how many times APs are going to meet and SSCs are going to meet. Kelly works with the tech staff and gathers that information, and the feeds directly into the travel costs in this summary table.

That is why the budget is a little higher at the start, and, generally, what we do is, once we know what our actual grant amount is, we refine the numbers and bring those costs down to match what we are actually receiving. We also -- Generally, when we do that, it's the June meeting, and so we've got four or five months, or six months, of expenditures, and so we can refine those estimates, because we do budget for the SEDAR travel at a higher attendance rate, to make sure, if everybody shows up, we don't get caught short, and so you have that several months of actual expenditures to refine your estimates.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Gregg, at the last meeting, we talked about how states were sending in -- I can't remember what the deadline was for that, and then, after you received all of that information from the states, you were going to send it back out to the state directors to review, to see if we wanted to refine our letters, or our ask, and what's the timeline on that?

MR. WAUGH: Once we get through this meeting, we will start working on the draft of the next five-year budget document, and I will combine the information we have received thus far from the individual states and get that back out to you all for some response. I think we talked about scheduling -- Let me find where that is.

On page 6 of the overview document, we talked about the five-year budget, and we're talking about having an Executive Finance webinar in late July or early August to refine our input for that next five-year grant, and so I will get something out to you all probably in late March or early April, and then we'll get something back so that we can refine those estimates, and the hope is that we beef up the expenditures that the states really incur to support the council process, and hopefully that will be a way to get more money in our grant, so that we can get more money to the states.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Any questions for Gregg about the budget? All right.

MR. WAUGH: As I mentioned, the committee approved the Calendar Year 2019 Operational Budget at that webinar, and so we'll be making that motion to the council, and that's it on the budget, unless there are questions.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Once again, no questions?

MR. POLAND: Real quick, and I know we've incorporated the money in the budget for the Mid-Atlantic liaison, and when do we want to start sending somebody, or how do we want to communicate with them to know if something is on their agenda that we feel like we need to go, and how do we want to proceed with that?

MR. WAUGH: I think now I can get with the Mid and see for -- They are meeting this week, because their last meeting wasn't noticed in the Federal Register, and so I can get ahold of their agenda for the next meeting and work with Jessica and see -- I think the way we left it before was looking to see if there were agenda items that we felt were worthwhile sending someone, and then I will reach out to council members and see who is interested in being the liaison, and I think that's a good point, and we can start doing that now.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Thanks, Steve. Thanks for reminding us. Now we're going to turn it over to Brian to talk about the activities schedule and our priorities.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. WAUGH: Just so we don't have a lot of dead radio time, maybe, if you're interested in being a Mid-Atlantic liaison, if you would just email me, so I know you're interested, and we still have the Gulf's -- I think it's their December meeting that I am still looking for a liaison for, or their October meeting in Galveston, Texas. It's the 21 through 24 of October, if anyone is interested in a free trip to Galveston, Texas.

MR. BELL: I don't need a free trip there, but, if nobody else would do it, remember that I told you that I will cover it. I think I'm safe still, so far, but, if somebody else wants to, that's fine.

MR. WAUGH: I will put you down for that, Mel, and then, if anyone has a burning desire to go there, Mel is willing to be bumped.

DR. CHEUVRONT: We've got it here now, Madam Chair. Sorry for the delay. A couple of things that I would like to bring up quickly, before we do the tiering stuff. First off, I would just remind everybody that the follow-up document is in the briefing book, and that is Tab 7, Attachment 5c, and it's the one that you always get, but just remember, if you're looking for -- If you want to know what's going on, what meetings are coming up, what's the status of different amendments and things, you can always refer to that document between now and the next council meeting.

If it's something that you think has happened since this council meeting, you can always contact me, and I can get you the latest version, or just give you the answer of the updates on different things, but the other thing is that there's a new document that you have not seen before that's in the Executive Finance Committee, and that is Attachment 5d, and that is a document that is the summary of the impacts of the shutdown that are lingering to date.

When our federal partners came back to work at the end of January, we had already worked up sort of some what-if scenarios, based on how we thought that things might be able to get done on time, but I have to say that our federal partners did way above and beyond anything that we expected that could be done, and we really appreciate the lengths that they went to to help us. I mean, almost immediately after they came back, I got a phone call from Rick saying, okay, what do we need to do to help you get ready for your March council meeting, and they were on it.

It was fortunate that we had a document that we were able to share with them right away that showed where we were and where we thought things were, but, working together, they were able



to really step up and did a tremendous amount of work. When we originally were planning this meeting, we were thinking that what are we going to do to fill up the time, and now, as you can see, we had no problem, because we were really worried that we weren't going to have a lot of things that were going to be done.

That document that is in there now, it's been continually updated, and so it shows the lingering effects that are still there, and we mentioned -- There is nothing there that I think we need to mention here now, but there were a few things that came up during the week, like something was delayed maybe by a council meeting or something like that, but we prioritized everything, the things that we knew that the council wanted right away, and that was the stuff that we focused on, and so I just wanted to thank them publicly for all the efforts that they had made to help us get ready for this council meeting, and it was a heavy lift, and they really did it for, and so thank you, all, very much.

Moving on to the follow-up and priorities, I've gotten -- There were sixteen things that were on the list that you all saw, and what I did is now they are rank-ordered, starting in Row 2 here, from high score to low score, in terms of what you wanted considered -- It says March, but it should be June and September and then December.

This is what you all showed as what you wanted as your priorities, and think this is the time, Madam Chair, where you need to have that discussion. Just so that you're aware, right now, you see Snapper Regulatory Amendment 30, red grouper rebuilding, and there is a pretty good chance that this is going to be completed in June, and so that one should be done, and then, in September, we're looking at having Regulatory Amendment 29 done and the Wreckfish ITQ done, and the last two aren't on a mandatory timeframe to get them done, but, if we keep on the same trajectory that we're on now, those two things could be done in September as well. Other than that, everything is else is sort of due at a time later than that.

MS. MCCAWLEY: All right, and I pulled up the list from the last council meeting and some of the items that we said back then that we wanted to bring to June, and so red grouper rebuilding was on there, and the allocation trigger was on there, and we said best practices and powerheads and blueline tilefish and the recreational accountability measures and recreational permits and the ABC control rule and the Oculina allowable trawl zones. Also, the wreckfish ITQ was on our list. To go back through, the two in yellow are the ones that have to come, right, because of the timelines?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Right. The allocation trigger plan and the red grouper rebuilding, those two are on timelines, and we really want to -- The red grouper rebuilding, remember, you have until September 19, I believe, and so getting it done in June will allow staff the time that they need to get that in. The allocation trigger plan, we were just following up on and making sure that we can get that done as soon as possible.

There is one other thing though, and that is there was discussion about SMZs, and we weren't clear exactly how you wanted to handle that. It didn't make it on here, because we didn't get any direction from the council, or the committees, to start looking at the idea of do you want to consider an amendment here, or do you want to go out to the individual states before you start an amendment, and so that was kind of in limbo, and it didn't make it onto the survey, but, if you

want work on that to be done between now and June, that would be helpful, if you give us direction or help us figure out how you want to proceed, if you want to go down that road.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Before I go to Mel, I suggest that the two things in yellow, the red grouper rebuilding and the allocation trigger, let's go ahead and put those on June.

MR. BELL: Just related to the question about how to proceed with the SMZs, I know that we've had some discussions, and I know what we as a state want to do. We have four reefs that we want to throw in there, and Doug may not have any, and so we may kind of know that there is two states that want to do that, but maybe that's too soon, or you need to go back and think about it.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Could we add it to our list of topics here, so that we can figure out maybe when we want to see it come back?

MR. BREWER: The forage fish, bullet and frigate mackerel, we voted to go forward with that, and I'm not sure that we had any direct -- I am trying to remember. I mean, did we decide to send that out for discussion, for public hearings? Where were we on that?

MS. BECKWITH: We decided to send it out to scoping via webinar, and so, if the dolphin wahoo committee meets in June, we would just hear the comments that came out of that scoping webinar. I suspect that Amendment 10, if we do discuss it in June, it will be quite short, because I am not holding out high hopes that the SSC is going to come back with an ABC recommendation for dolphin during this meeting, and so I had chatted with John and said that, if they did not come back with an ABC recommendation, we can discuss the frigate mackerel comments and maybe just see the actions in the dolphin wahoo amendment that have nothing to do with an ABC recommendation.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Okay. Let's see if we can capture that. Do you mind adding a topic for bullet and frigate mackerel, so we make sure that we have that captured? If I understand what you were saying, Anna, you are saying, no matter what, we want to see the comments from the webinar on bullet and frigate mackerel at June.

MS. BECKWITH: Since no additional work will have to be done on the Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 10, really, between now and then, if the SSC doesn't give us an ABC. If we looked at any part of it, we would probably just look at like the handful of actions that don't have anything to do with needing to have an ABC or an ACL.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Okay, and so what I heard from that was a check or an X for both the bullet and frigate mackerel for June and the Dolphin Amendment 10 for June, or like a half-check, a lower-case check.

MR. WOODWARD: I noticed, in the survey, that we didn't have a task on there for my inquiry about the greater amberjack and jacks complex, and is that something that needs to be identified, so we can schedule it?

MS. MCCAWLEY: Can we add that to the topic list as well, Brian?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Sure, and part of the reason why that wasn't on there is because we were not given clear direction as to what you wanted as the next step, other than just some information about it. To be able to come back with an options paper or a white paper, there would probably need to be some more direction from the council as to what you are looking for in that document, and I believe Myra was planning on bringing you back some information, but it's sort of still pre-white paper/options paper at this stage.

MS. MCCAWLEY: So maybe it's jacks pre-white paper?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay.

MR. HAYMANS: That pre-white paper would include, and I am kind of looking over my shoulder at Myra, but what would be involved if we started a separate FMP for jacks.

MS. MCCAWLEY: I think so, yes.

MR. WAUGH: I thought the gist of what Spud was suggesting was to look at the feasibility of moving the jacks complex into the Coastal Migratory Pelagics FMP.

MR. HAYMANS: Not to speak for Spud, but that is what you said, right, was to put it in there?

MR. WOODWARD: Yes, that was the original intent, was to examine that, but I guess we also need to consider if, for some reason, that's just not feasible, and what are the alternatives, and I guess I was asking for an options analysis without necessarily stating that very clearly, and so I guess, in the interest of clarity, let's just call it that, an options analysis for moving greater amberjack and the jacks complex out of snapper grouper to some other place.

MS. MCCAWLEY: All right, and so we have it listed there. Can we start populating June and September, and maybe even December here, for these various items?

MR. POLAND: I want to go back to the SMZ amendment. I know, Mel, it said that South Carolina had some interest in adding in four reefs, I think, and so I don't know if -- I think there is still some question about if all that can be handled in one amendment or if they had to be separate amendments, but I think we can do it one amendment, but, I mean, I would be fine suggesting to see something back on that amendment in September, just to give Mel and South Carolina some time to get their request together.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Okay, and so that was SMZ for September. Another thing was the Oculina allowable trawl zones, and we talked about seeing that in June, since we would be in Florida. Is that something that -- I don't know if the shutdown affected that and if that's something that can come back. Maybe Chip was working on that?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Yes, Chip was working on that, and one of the issues with that right now has to do with getting some maps together, and, clearly, we don't have them, and it was a NMFS thing that was affected by the shutdown, and I would have to check that, and I would have to check with Chip, but I think it's actually even in the shutdown document, and whether or not that could be ready by September, but it's not going to be ready for June.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Okay, and I see it has a five by it as a tier, and can we go ahead and put it on September?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Sure, we can put it in September.

MR. BREWER: Talking about September, and not wanting to overload June, our number-two-ranked item was best practices and powerheads, and so I'm wondering if perhaps that should go in either June or September, and probably September.

MS. MCCAWLEY: I thought we were pretty close, and I thought that the timeline that we had was June/September, and so I say that we go ahead and put it on June.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Madam Chair, right now, if you stay with your current timeline, you were going to finish that one up in September, and so we can probably just put it down for June and September, just because you were going to finish it up then.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Sounds great.

MR. POLAND: Now that we've added that to June, the recreational permit and reporting, and I don't know where that was in the development when we stopped working on it, and it's at a five, and so, really, there probably wouldn't be anything to bring back in June, but I definitely feel like in September we can see something on that.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Okay. What else for June, September, and December? What about the wreckfish ITQ? We talked about that coming back in June and then finalizing in September.

MR. BREWER: I was going to mention that one of them that's on here, and it's at the bottom of the list, and I think we could almost forget about for a while is aquaculture. Until that lawsuit gets finalized one way or the other, we are totally hamstrung.

MS. MCCAWLEY: I agree. I think that's why it's the lowest on the list, and I agree. Good point.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Do you want me to take it off the list for now? Then, when you all want to bring it back later, we can.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Sure.

MR. BREWER: That's Roy's chairmanship, and so maybe he ought to speak, but, until the lawsuit gets finalized, I don't know what we can do with that thing.

MS. MCCAWLEY: What about the king mackerel item? I don't know if I see the king mackerel item on there.

DR. CHEUVRONT: It's Row 11.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Doug, when do you think that should come back?

MR. HAYMANS: Well, we were going to hear from the AP in April, and I think we were planning to see something in June.

MS. MCCAWLEY: All right, and so here are some of the ones that we don't have a timeline for. The recreational accountability measures, when do we want to see that again? We also don't -- The ABC control rule, we don't have a timeline on that, and so when are we thinking on those two documents? I heard September for both of those.

MR. BREWER: We are loading up September pretty good now, too.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Let me ask Brian. Do you think June is too overloaded yet?

DR. CHEUVRONT: A lot of this is -- Right now, what you have for June, other than the allocation trigger plan and the wreckfish ITQ, a lot of that is falling onto John Hadley and to Christina, and so, depending on how we do this. Myra is going to do the options for jacks paper. It's a matter of timing of what you want. I mean, we could come back with some stuff for recreational AMs and ABC control rule in June, if that's when you want to start looking at these again, and we have some allocation things that we're going to bring back to you in June as well that is more informational, and so it's kind of how you all want to go, but we can make those happen, if that's what you want to have happen.

MS. MCCAWLEY: We also talked about, and Chris brought up a good point that, if we're going to talk more about allocation, outside of the trigger plan, and get the history and go over the Story Map, to have significant time available for that.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Madam Chair, we kind of had talked informally about the idea of perhaps the council staff providing information on the allocation stuff, the history and all that, at the June meeting, and then maybe schedule a longer session in September, where you can have a larger block of time to talk about your philosophy on allocations, and it gets to the point that Chris brought up about allowing there to be some time for people to think about the issues that are brought up before you are having to discuss them and do it all at once.

MS. MCCAWLEY: That's great, and is there any way you could add that to our topics here, so that we know that that's the plan that we want to execute, and we're trying to do that in June and September?

DR. CHEUVRONT: I put them as two separate items, so that we'll know what -- They are going to be two different things, and so, actually, for the allocation discussion, just as a placeholder right now, and I think the discussion, if I remember correctly, was about four hours.

MS. MCCAWLEY: That's what we said.

DR. CHEUVRONT: So I'm going to put in there the four hours right now, so that we know to block it out that way.

MS. BECKWITH: We originally, during the last meeting, had put the blueline tilefish north of Hatteras on the list for June, I think, and I don't know that we would get very far with that discussion, but if we can at least spend a few minutes getting an update on where we are, and I've

been looking through the -- The last time we talked about it was June of 2018, and we just delayed it from other priorities, and so maybe not start work on it, but just touch base on where we are and bring everybody up to speed on what those issues are.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Okay. Got it. We have allocation trigger plans, and so I'm still wanting to know when we're going to come back on the recreational AMs and the ABC control rule, just because I want to put a placeholder up there, so staff knows when to bring that back, and so is that a June item or a September item?

MR. CARMICHAEL: I think we could be ready, assuming that things go well with the SSC and we could make progress on the risk tolerance assignments, I think we could approve the ABC control rule for public hearings in September and not before, if you wanted to consider that in, as we said, and maybe approve the language in June, but we could probably do both at one time, if we needed to.

MS. MCCAWLEY: So then is bringing them both back in September the best option?

DR. CHEUVRONT: That works for us. That would be fine to do that, too.

MS. MCCAWLEY: All right. Let's put both of those down for September, and I'm going to go to Mel for a different topic.

MR. BELL: We had the discussion about MRIP and the SSC and they're going to meet face-to-face in April, and would we get a report in June from them, as to how that went, just a report?

MS. MCCAWLEY: Do we want to add that to the topics list, a report from the SSC on MRIP, and put that down for June? I don't think it's too soon. Maybe the word is "update". I think we've captured everything so far, and I feel like that is -- What did you say that's missing? Spanish mackerel is missing? That's the one where we're going to have the AP talk about what they want specific to Spanish mackerel. Some of them had said limited entry, and we heard some on that tonight, and so, Christina.

MS. WIEGAND: Amendment 24 is something that you guys were working on back in 2014, and you had postponed it, in order to get through the visioning process, because that was the priority at the time. Amendment 24 looked at sort of similar concerns that the guys have been talking about now, that the commercial sector was getting very close to their ACL, where the recreational sector is way, way below, and, for this amendment, I looked at an old options paper from 2014, and it looks like you guys were looking at possible pre-season ACL shifts or a common pool ACL, I guess a little similar to what you've been looking at for dolphin and wahoo, and that's what Amendment 24 was, specifically.

MS. MCCAWLEY: I almost want to throw that out and start over. Let's not muddy the waters with that previous plan, but, to me, this was something different, and we were going to go back to the SSC. Is there a way that we could just get an update on what the -- Not the SSC, but what the AP said, an update on this, at the June meeting? All right. How do folks feel about this ever-growing list of items? I am afraid to keep talking about this, because we keep adding things. Brian, do you think that this is doable?

DR. CHEUVRONT: I do think it is doable, because I am looking at the spread of the workload across different staff people, and I do think it is doable. You do still have yellowtail snapper long-term, and the commercial electronic logbooks and bycatch reporting that don't have anything on them, but it sounds to me like what you're saying is that it may be December that would be the first that you're willing to even think about it. Remember that you're going to have two meetings to change that in the future if you want to, but we just want to make sure that things don't drop off your radar, which is why they're still on here, but, if you don't want to deal with them just yet, you don't have to deal with them.

MS. MCCAWLEY: To me, yellowtail doesn't come back until the stock assessment is completed, which is what we said, and so that -- I don't even think the stock assessment is going to be completed until the very end of 2020, and so maybe we put a placeholder for December, but doesn't it have new dates? I can't remember the new dates. It was December, but I thought the timeline, because of the government shutdown, was pushed back, and so now maybe the soonest it could come was it would be March of next year, and I don't know.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Then we're just going to leave it blank for right now. We'll leave it on the list, but leave it blank. We're just not going to work on it until then. Then commercial electronic logbooks.

MR. BELL: Just help me out here and refresh my memory. The bycatch reporting, what was it that needs to happen before that kind of starts moving again? We were waiting on something from NMFS or --

MS. MCCAWLEY: I don't know, and I'm looking over to Brian, because I can't remember either. Here comes Rick.

MR. DEVICTOR: If you recall, we're required to work on looking at our standard bycatch reporting methodologies, and I can't remember the exact date, but we did have a number of years to do that, and that is something that got delayed a little bit due to the shutdown, but we plan on going full steam ahead after this meeting, but that's where -- We are going to work on that, and it will be a document where NMFS works with the councils, and then, if an amendment is required, or if the council wants to move forward with changing those, they can, but they are not required to make changes to the bycatch reporting methodologies.

MR. BELL: But there was a deadline of some point.

MS. MCCAWLEY: So maybe that's a September item, an update in September? Brian, anything else?

DR. CHEUVRONT: There is still the commercial electronic logbooks on there that has nothing on it.

MS. MCCAWLEY: I can't remember what the item was with the commercial logbooks.

MR. WAUGH: We were going to get an update from the Center on this, and this was looking at converting from paper logbooks to allow them to report electronically, or to require them to report electronically, similar to what we have done with the charter vessels. I don't know that it's time

critical, and it may be good to have a period of time when they're doing it voluntarily, to scale up, and then pick up the mandatory electronic reporting.

MS. MCCAWLEY: I don't know. September or December? I am looking over here.

MR. BELL: Wherever it fits, but I do think we need to -- I can remember now, and that was one thing that I think that Jack was particularly passionate about, was trying to -- Because he participated, I think, in some of the R&D stuff, and he thought that would be real useful for the community, if they could get that going eventually.

MR. CONKLIN: There has been a lot of research and work already done on that. I remember that Bonnie had computers out to boat owners, and it was getting done, and then I don't know what put the brakes on it, but certainly it would be a nice thing to do. It's 2019, and we sure don't need to be using paper anymore.

MS. MCCAWLEY: So throw out a month. September, does that work? Okay.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I think that has probably everything at this point. It will be busy, but we've got -- I have just noticed, and one of my observations from the discussion today, is it has become more than just specific projects. It's become more of helping to set the next agenda, certain of these things, and it's fine that you have them on here, and, I mean, I'm not being critical of that at all, but things like we hadn't put presentations and things on here before, and that's okay. If you want to continue in that vein in the future, then I will try to be mindful of that as I put these things together for the future.

MS. MCCAWLEY: For the little survey you mean?

DR. CHEUVRONT: For the survey, when you get it all.

MS. MCCAWLEY: That sounds great to me.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Okay. Thank you, all, very much.

MS. MCCAWLEY: All right. Thanks, Brian.

MR. WAUGH: Under Other Business, we were coming back to just check with you all again and see if there was any interest in commenting on this proposed rule for financial disclosure and voting recusals. This hasn't been a big issue with us. We have run into a couple of situations over the years, but Monica has some information that we can share. The other councils that are more affected have raised issues with this. If you're an employee of a major company, then all of that company's interests apply to you, and so it can prevent you from voting on certain issues. We just don't have those types of situations. What is critical is for you to disclose your interest, and, if you, for instance, purchase wreckfish shares or something like that, you need to update your financial disclosure and make sure that's current.

There is a process that Monica and I get together and review the agenda before each meeting and try to identify where we might have any issues, but this goes into a lot of detail, and it's pretty difficult to follow through in the proposed rule, but we can cover some of the major items, if you



all are interested, but the other councils have commented already, and they have hit the big issues, and so I don't feel it's something that we have to sort of pile on with. If you are comfortable just leaving it as is, I think the comments raised by the other councils cover the major items.

MR. BREWER: We don't have Sunkist, and we don't have Bumblebee and those things. When you've got these megacorporations that operate in the Western Pacific, I can understand where they would have a concern, but, on our coast, we have got -- On the commercial side, we've got mostly mom-and-pop-type operations, and so I don't think that we need to jump into that particular fray.

MS. MCCAWLEY: All right. Any more comments or concerns?

MR. BREWER: I meant to say Star-Kist and not Sunkist.

MS. MCCAWLEY: Got it. All right. Is there any other business to come before Executive Finance? Next up is Full Council, and so let's take a ten or fifteen-minute break while we get set up for Full Council.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on March 7, 2019.)

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Certified By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcribed By;  
Amanda Thomas  
March 29, 2019

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