

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Charleston Marriott Hotel
Charleston, SC**

September 19, 2013

SUMMARY MINUTES

Executive Finance Committee:

David Cupka, Chair
Dr. Michelle Duval
Charlie Phillips

Ben Hartig, Vice-Chair
Jessica McCawley

Council Members:

Jack Cox
Dr. Roy Crabtree
Doug Haymans
Anna Beckwith
Dr. Wilson Laney

Mel Bell
Lt. Morgan Fowler
John Jolley
Chris Conklin
Zack Bowen*

Council Staff:

Bob Mahood
Mike Collins
Dr. Kari MacLauchlin
Kim Iverson
Julie O'Dell
Anna Martin
Myra Brouwer

Gregg Waugh
John Carmichael
Amber Von Harten
Dr. Mike Errigo
Roger Pugliese
Dr. Brian Chevront
Julia Byrd

Observers/Participants:

Monica Smit-Brunello
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith
Jessica Powell
Barb Zoodsma
Lt. Michael Mastrianni
Anik Clemens

Dr. Jack McGovern
Phil Steele
Pres Pate
Dr. Marcel Reichert
Robert Boyles

Additional Observers Attached

*Appointed but non-voting or sworn-in until October 25, 2013

The Executive Finance Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Blue Topaz Room of the Charleston Marriott Hotel, Charleston, South Carolina, September 19, 2013, and was called to order at 11:00 o'clock a.m. by Chairman David Cupka.

MR. CUPKA: Okay, I would like to call the Executive Finance Committee to order. The next order of business will be approval of the agenda. Are there any changes or additions to the agenda? Seeing none; then our agenda is approved. Next is approval of our June 2013 Executive Finance Committee Meeting Minutes. Are there any corrections to the minutes? Seeing none; then our minutes are approved. Next on the agenda is the status of the council year 2013 funding. I'm going to ask Bob to go over that for us.

MR. MAHOOD: I think as most of you know, we're on a budget cycle that runs from January 1st to December 31st as the council; whereas, our partners in NMFS run from October 1st through September 30, and September 30 is approaching and they don't have a budget. We're good through the end of the year with what we have.

We're hoping that Congress will at the very least get some sort of a continuing resolution, because we have a number of things happening where we need our partners. The first I think is the SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting. We certainly don't want to see the government shut down.

As far as what we will look at in 2014, we're not sure yet. The President's Budget did restore the councils to level funding from previous to this FY 2013, where we did take a cut. Both the House and the Senate are all over the place with their recommendation for the councils, so we're going to have to see what happens.

Then as many of you also probably realize, we depend on the NMFS Budget and some of their budget categories for funding. Probably about 25 percent of our operational funding comes from line items within the NMFS Budget. It is important that they are funded at the proper levels also, because that does affect us.

Mr. Chairman, as far as our 2013 budget, we talked about this a little bit, we took about a 10 percent cut across the board except for our SEDAR funding. Bonnie was somehow able to keep our SEDAR funding at a level to what we've had the last four or five years. That was helpful as far as stock assessments.

Obviously, it would be nice if we get an increase at some point, but we're not really holding our breath on that. We appreciate Bonnie's efforts on that. The Attachment 1 that everybody has in your briefing book, it shows where we are. Mike Collins tracks the funding very closely and prepares this table. You can we're pretty much on track. Let me tell you a little bit about the funding for this year.

If you look at the table and you look down to the very bottom left-and corner, you will see that we budgeted this year based on the activities we expected to take place, just a tad over four million dollars.

Our funding in 2013 was \$3,170,000, and we were able to carry forward from 2012 a little over a million dollars. Our total we had available this year was about \$4.2 million. You will see if you

go all the way over to the far right-hand side of the table at the bottom, we're projecting coming out with about \$134,000 and change that we won't spend out of what we budgeted this year.

If you look at the \$234,000 over what we budgeted this year, plus the \$134,000, we're looking at carrying forward into the final year of our five-year contract a little over \$368,000. Now as you can see, since we carried a million into this year, \$368,000 is going to make it tough next year unless we do get more funding than what we received in 2013.

That is kind of where we are. As most of you know, we've been pretty frugal with our money just in anticipation of these types of cuts, and it has paid off. Most of the councils have been doing this, and I think most of the councils are in pretty good shape. We're not sure what will happen in the next five-year cycle after FY 2014, but that is down the road and we'll worry about that when that happens. Mr. Chairman, that is all I have unless somebody has some questions.

MR. CUPKA: Are there any questions for Bob on the budget? Seeing none; then one thing I failed to mention under other business, I would like to reserve a little bit of time to turn it over to Michelle so we can have a short discussion to try and finish up our decisions on port meetings for our visioning activities.

I would like to add that at the end of our agenda under other business. All right, that brings us down to Item 5, which is an update on the Joint Committee on South Florida Management Issues Workshops. You will recall, or if you are new you may not; that we've been working jointly with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council on two issues.

One of them is Goliath grouper, which the Gulf Council has the lead on. The other is the South Florida Management Issues, which this council has the lead on. In terms of the Goliath grouper, Steve Bortone, who was the Executive Director down there, was working on that. Then when Steve left, it kind of ceased any action on it for a little while, but I think they're going to get back to it and probably work on both of these issues jointly with some future meetings.

Goliath was certainly an issue I think that was brought up from the South Florida Management Issues. Now, we've been fortunate, too, that the FWC obviously is very interested in the South Florida Management Issues, and they have kind of taken the lead on this and have sponsored a series of workshops, which I'm going to ask Jessica to go over with us and give us a report on how those turned out.

Then at the last Gulf Council meeting they decided or suggested that we should have a face-to-face meeting between the two councils to discuss these issues and see how we want to proceed with them. You will recall that we have used our Executive Committee as the South Atlantic Council representative on this and the Gulf has named a committee to work with us. That is kind of where we are. We've had these workshops; and, Jessica, if you don't mind giving us a report on that, I would appreciate it.

MS. McCRAWLEY: You will notice that there is a summary provided in your materials about these particular workshops. I will just hit some high points. There were five workshops. They were held in Dania Beach, Key Largo, Key Colony Beach, Key West and Marco Island. The staff members from FWC that were present were Martha Bademan and I, John Hunt, Tony Bresnan, Mason Smith.

Council members that were present from the Gulf, we had John Sanchez; and on the South Atlantic we had Ben Hartig and John Jolley at some of the workshops. From the South Florida Committee, the people that were attending the workshops were Martha, myself, John Hunt, John Sanchez, Ben and John Jolley. We had a lot of members from that South Florida Committee that were attending the workshops.

We ran the workshops as kind of a panel type meeting where we gave a lengthy PowerPoint presentation at the beginning. Martha gave the presentation. I can provide the PowerPoint to you if you would like to see it. We talked a lot about the jurisdictional problems occurring in South Florida. We showed a series of slides that were very interesting that showed the overlap between the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

We've got three national parks down there; we've got all these overlaying jurisdiction boundary issues. We talked about some of the FWC rules and where the various lines are in state waters for things like snapper and grouper species. It is different depending on the species. Sometimes Monroe County is included, sometimes it is excluded, and sometimes the line is right down U.S. 1. You can imagine the confusion for the fishermen in that area.

The summary that you've been provided talks a lot about – as you can see people were all over the map at these scoping workshops. One thing that was interesting to note, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, if you remember Shawn Morton was here discussion their process, which is anticipated completion in 2015, but they have workgroups and they are talking about new zones for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

It just so happened that Monday, the same day as the Dania Beach Workshop, they had had a workgroup meeting that was particularly contentious where they were discussing a lot of additional closed areas for the Sanctuary. People began coming to our workshops because they got our workshop process confused with the Sanctuary process.

After that Monday night meeting, we basically had to begin every workshop saying we're not here to talk about the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. This is a different entity. The purpose of these workshops is something totally different. That might have been why we got some people to the workshops in the first place; but once they were there and maybe simmered down a little bit, then they did provide some useful information at the workshops.

You will notice that there are some comments on there about that Sanctuary process, and it is because there was some confusion about the particular workshops. A couple interesting things to note; we were requesting comments on just what people thought in general about how the South Florida area or the Keys regions should be managed. Somebody had written an editorial a few weeks prior to these workshops and had indicated that they thought that the best process would be to establish a South Florida Fisheries Management Council.

A lot of people were really excited at the thought at that prospect. We tried to explain to people that that would take between five and six million dollars, and it would also literally take an Act of Congress, and we just didn't think that was going to be possible. After we deflated that bubble, then they had some other ideas about maybe doing things like how the Caribbean Council is set up where they have a separate island FMPs and that maybe even the South Florida area could be added to the Caribbean Council as well.

Some people talked about just some special South Florida Regional Management Area or things of that nature. There were a couple items that you'll see on this list that you are probably scratching your head about. One of them was probably barracuda and one of them is sea cucumbers. The FWC is also going through a process right now where we are looking at barracuda and sea cucumbers, so we knew that people in South Florida were going to be there excited to talk about those issues.

A couple things to note that were interesting; there were a lot of people there that wanted to talk about mutton snapper. We've heard about that in the past; about people wanting a spawning season closure, people wanting changes in the bag limit, people wanting vessel limits. There was a lot of interesting discussion about sharks.

People think that sharks are overpopulated and overprotected in the Keys and that they are becoming like dolphin in that they're following boats out of marinas all the way offshore where people are fishing and eating the fish as soon as they get on the line. We heard a lot about that. But there were a lot of really helpful and informative comments.

I agree that I think that we need an in-person meeting. I think that an in-person meeting of both that South Florida Committee and the Goliath Grouper Committee would be beneficial to figure out how we're going to move these items forward. Clearly, some of the items are state-only that the FWC could tackle by themselves. Other items need a more coordinated effort between the two councils and the state. I don't know if Ben or John Jolley want to add anything to this report.

MR. CUPKA: Ben or John, do you have anything you want to add at this point?

MR. HARTIG: Just that it was a great process and it gives some ideas going into visioning about how to conduct a meeting and things of that nature. It worked really well from both sides of the aisle. The public appreciated it and we appreciated the way that they responded to our questions and things. It was great all the way around.

MS. McCAWLEY: Would you like to entertain a motion?

MR. CUPKA: Well, I was just going to say we need to move ahead and move on and decide where we want to go with this with the next step. I envision this joint meeting happening. I'm sure that FWC would rather see it happen sooner than later. I guess what we need to do is have staff contact Gulf staff and see if they can find a date that would be useful or appropriate to get the two committees together.

MS. McCAWLEY: I would direct staff to work on meeting the South Florida and Goliath Grouper Committees in person in early 2014 in South Florida to discuss how to move forward with Goliath grouper and items identified at the South Florida Scoping Workshops.

MR. CUPKA: Okay, let Gregg get that up on the board, and then we'll discuss it.

MS. McCAWLEY: To discuss how to move forward with Goliath grouper and items identified at the South Florida Scoping Workshops.

MR. CUPKA: Okay, we have a motion; second by Ben. All right, discussion on the motion; any questions? Bob

MR. MAHOOD: Jessica, what do you want us to look at? Do you think a full day and a half, or do you think we need more than that?

MS. McCAWLEY: Either a day and a half or two days I think would be good, especially for this initial discussion to get it going to figure out where we want to go next. There are a lot of things to discuss on Goliath grouper. Maybe two days is what is needed for this; and maybe something like Tampa, maybe Fort Lauderdale. FWC staff can help with the location if needed.

MR. CUPKA: Other comments? **The motion is to direct staff to work on a meeting of the South Florida and Goliath Committees early in 2014, at an in-person meeting in South Florida to discuss how to move forward with Goliath grouper and items identified at the South Florida Scoping Workshops.** Doug.

MR. HAYMANS: Mr. Chairman, I am not on your committee, but I have a question. Whose Goliath Committee is it?

MR. CUPKA: We had a small committee. I think it was Gregg and myself at one time working with the Gulf, and they had Steve Bortone and a couple –

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes, I'm on the Goliath Grouper Committee, also.

MR. CUPKA: There are not as many members as there are on the Joint South Florida Issues Committee, but I think we can combine them. There is a lot of overlap between the committees, so that would be good. Any other discussion or questions on the motion? Is there any objection to the motion? **Seeing none; then that motion is approved.**

I think that is pretty much what we have to do on that item at this point, but we will certainly try and arrange that meeting and will be reporting back as the groups move ahead. Next is to address the council follow up and priorities, and, Gregg, I'm going to turn that over to you. Wait a minute, Bob has a comment.

MR. MAHOOD: Just to alert the council; what we consider our followup is our Regional Operating Agreement with the Regional Office and the Center. But at the national level, in response to the Inspector General's Report, we're also working with a group to look at a little bit more formalized Regional Operating Agreement. This is just something they want to see in response to the Inspector General's recommendations.

I'm on the committee, I think Kitty Simons is on the committee, and several folks from the Silver Spring's office. One of the things we're going to do here in the southeast – and I think we talked a little bit on our last briefing call with the region – is try to resurrect and modify the detailed ROA we put together back in July of 2006.

I'm not sure who all was around, Ben, when we did that. It was a fairly detailed document. It had signatures of the Center, the Region, NOAA GC and the Council. At that time, even though

our lovely GC lady over there was willing to sign on the dotted line, the powers to be at higher levels decided that NOAA GC could not enter into that Regional Operating Agreement.

It kind of died on the vine, and we went to our more informal regional operating agreement we have now, which works very well. We're going to resurrect that so we actually have some signatures on a piece of paper. We won't require the NOAA General Counsel to sign anything, but we will mention that they are part of the process.

Our staff hasn't started looking at it yet. I think Phil, Jack and some of those folks were going to look at it also. But by the December meeting we should have something for you all to look at. We will then try to approve that and then pass that on to the folks in Silver Spring. Hopefully, that will satisfy what they would like to see relative to a Regional Operating Agreement.

MR. WAUGH: What you have in the briefing book as Attachment 3 is the version that we've been using to track our activities after each council meeting for this year. That one has the actions resulting from June. We'll revise this with the actions from here. We keep up with this and provide it to you after each meeting.

It is a good place for committee chairs and other council members to see where we are with each committee and what is on the books for upcoming meetings. Late last week Mike sent out another version of this that has Preliminary Draft 2014. What we did was went through and stripped out amendments that have been completed and ones we thought you would complete here at this meeting to try and shorten this as much as possible.

What we're looking for here at this council meeting from each committee is just some guidance on which amendments or documents you all would like to see go out to public hearings or scoping in January. That will give us the guidance for what we need to work on to bring to you at the December meeting.

The rest of this is very rough; and what I'm going to do is just walk through fairly quickly under each item so you have an idea of what is coming up. I've updated this some. Yellow is to call your attention to where we are with each of these; and then anything that is new, I picked another color. I can't remember which it is right now, but we'll see in a moment.

For next year we have the Oculina Evaluation Team, and this is on the bottom of Page 6 of that revised document. Anybody who is having difficulty finding it, I think you can probably just follow along on the screen, and we'll make sure we get one to you. We're requesting some presentations for our next Snapper Grouper Committee Meeting. The evaluation team will work on a report January through March.

We will have a draft report reviewed by Snapper Grouper, Habitat, Coral, I&E and Law Enforcement APs as required by the plan in April/May. The SSC will look at a version of that in April, and then the evaluation team will revise a report and provide that final report for the briefing book by May 19, so you all will get it in June.

The deadline laid out in the monitoring plan for the Oculina Experimental Closed Area says that should be ready by March. We're not going to make that. June is when that will be ready. If

you have any questions, just stop me as we're going through please. Twenty-One is a placeholder for the outcome of our visioning process.

Twenty-Two looks at the recreational tag program. This one we're planning for approval for public hearings at the December meeting, but that may or may not happen. We'll just have to see how much can get done on that. Then the intent would be if it went to public hearings in January, we would review comments in March and then review final amendment in June.

In some instances here we've built in – we used to, when things were operating at a more reasonable pace, have the council give final approval on all actions at one meeting. Then we could finish the document and bring it back to you at the next meeting for you to approve for secretarial review.

That is nice from a staff perspective, you get to work on it, and I think you all get a chance to look at it. It is also a little dangerous, because then at the next meeting someone may want to try and change something. On a committee-by-committee basis, we'll be looking for guidance on how you all want to handle that.

Twenty-seven is in the process; 29 is the ORCS, making those revisions. Here we're looking at getting some guidance here, doing a scoping webinar. This will all come together. I want to show you what we've got planned for the January and August hearing. There we want some guidance on how to do scoping.

We'd like to use webinars for our scoping for other issues. We've already gotten guidance from the Snapper Grouper Committee that the MPA scoping needs to be in person, but we'll do a scoping webinar between now and November, and then at the December meeting you would approve for public hearings that will be held in January. It could be finalized either in March or June.

Blueline tilefish is going to the SSC in October and you'll be getting the results of that in December. The output thus far has been that it is overfishing and overfished, so we'll be looking at some significant reductions there. The SSC reviews it; we do a scoping webinar; the council receives the assessment and the SSC recommendations. I think the level of reduction just for the F-rebuild is on the order of 58 to 60 percent. Once the SSC applies their control rule, the reduction will likely be higher.

At December we'll also ask for your guidance on emergency action, whether that is warranted to get some reduction in ACLs in 2014. This will in all likelihood be an EIS, because we're putting in a rebuilding plan. There are a number of places you'll see in here that NMFS is determining whether it is an EA or EIS. Once we have guidance on the range of actions and alternatives from this meeting, they will then sit down and go through that.

Then we would approve it for public hearings in December, hold the public hearings in January, finalize either in March or June; but you can see that finalizing it in June and then six months for it to be implemented, you would miss the whole 2014. That is why we're asking guidance at the December meeting on whether we need to consider emergency action.

Regulatory Amendment 14 is finalized at this meeting. Regulatory Amendment 16; this is one that would look at options to remove the black sea bass pot closure. In all likelihood it would be an EIS, so we'd be looking at doing scoping webinar in January/February time period, come back to you in March.

We had penciled in here that we could consider public hearings in April. In all likelihood that may slide over to August, but that is up for guidance from you. Regulatory Amendment 17, MPAs; we had several options for timing. What the Snapper Grouper Committee is recommending is for staff to prepare a draft regulatory amendment document for review at the December 2013 meeting; approve for scoping at the December meeting; conduct in-person scoping meetings in January; review comments at the March meeting and then provide more guidance; review the analyses and approve for public hearings at June, public hearings in August; finalize in September and December.

The SSC will also be receiving a snowy grouper and mutton snapper assessment, so we'll have the results of those. We have a faster framework procedure, but we're not sure that will be implemented in time. It is in all likelihood we'll be working under the existing framework procedure; and we would recommend taking this out to public hearings in January and then finalizing in March.

Then there was interest expressed in doing a Comprehensive Accountability Measures Amendment. If we do want to go forward with that, our recommendation is to do that later in the year to come into that August 2014 or January '15 round of public hearings. As you'll see, we're piling up a lot of stuff.

The Fishery Ecosystem Plan will be updated during 2014. It's on a five-year cycle to meet our EFH requirements. CE-BA 3, which now has just the bycatch reporting requirement in it; we were to receive a NOAA GC report at this meeting. They requested that be moved to December given the existing workloads, so in December we will have their guidance on the fact that we are meeting our MSA requirements.

Then you need to give us guidance on how we move forward with CE-BA 3. Coral Amendment 8 we're finalizing at this meeting. Three mackerel amendments we're finalizing at this meeting. Then we have the SSC will be receiving the updated Spanish mackerel projections and we will have those to review.

We have a fast-track process that we could use in that if there are reductions, and there are anticipated to be reductions, we may want to choose the regular framework procedure and take those out to public hearings in January. That is sort of how we're planning for it given the likely level of impacts. Then we would finalize it in March and submit it in March so that could get implemented as early as possible in 2014.

A Joint Gulf/South Atlantic Allocation Amendment; we had some discussions here. There is an interest in us moving forward on Atlantic Migratory Group Spanish Mackerel, so we're recommending a scoping webinar January/February, and then again we have to coordinate with the Gulf Council on this. We would be looking at approval for public hearings in June, August public hearings and finalizing in September/October time period.

The Mackerel Committee is recommending an options paper for separating permits for king mackerel and Spanish mackerel into separate jurisdictions. This came up at this meeting. Our recommendation would be that would be worked on later in the year and sort of get into that August timeframe for public hearings.

Nothing on spiny lobster or shrimp, knock on wood, golden crab. Joint Data Reporting Amendments; we will be voting on the Generic Dealer Amendment at this meeting again. Hopefully that will be the end of that. The Generic For-Hire Reporting in South Atlantic Amendment has been submitted. Gulf Framework has been submitted. We're still working and we will hear reports on the Generic Commercial Logbook Amendment. We'll need some guidance on timing.

And Charterboat Reporting Amendment, we'll get some guidance on timing. That is in the very early stages. Then Dolphin Wahoo, the dolphin wahoo fillet issue; we laid out two procedures, but what the Dolphin Wahoo Committee is recommending is that we assume an EA is required – and this is such a minor item we're pretty confident that it will be an EA – that we schedule a public comment period at December; publicize it ahead of time; and then the committee and council will review, modify and approve Amendment 7 for formal review.

It just has one action dealing with allowing fishermen to bring fillets of dolphin and wahoo back from the Bahamas. That will track what is on the books for snapper grouper fillets. We have a Generic Allocation Amendment looking at snapper grouper and dolphin wahoo allocations. The timeframe we're looking at there is to review a scoping document and approve for scoping at December; do the scoping webinar is January/February; review comments in March; approve for public hearing in June; and then August hearings; and then finalized in September and December.

Again that is the SSC. You can always look in this section and see what is planned for the SSC meeting. This is where it sort of comes together a little bit and where we're looking for some guidance. We feel the scoping; the webinar process has worked well. We put together a summary document and get that posted on the website.

We put together a PowerPoint presentation and put that on the site. We do a video tape of staff running through that and put that on there as well. For public hearings we do a Q&A session ahead of time. I think people are getting quite comfortable with using this. Any technical issues have been rare now. Our recommendation, a couple of changes, and then we've had also some recommendations for changes in how the public hearings are conducted. It is hard when you've got so many different amendments for people to know when to come.

Our recommendation is that we schedule the presentations on the hour and half hour and work up a set schedule and then publicize that. People will know then when to come in for a particular amendment. The other that we'd like some guidance on is that we do scoping via webinars only. Certainly, there is the option like you all are using with MPAs. If it is a big issue and you all want it done through in-person scoping meetings, then we can do that.

But, for instance, we're looking at six items for this January round of public hearings. If you were to add in four or five items for scoping, it makes it very hard for us to even just make

presentations and hard for the public. Mr. Chairman, I don't know if this is a good place to talk about that guidance for scoping.

MR. CUPKA: Yes, I think now would be a good time.

MR. MAHOOD: One of the things we've looked at, especially with the scoping – and again we're not talking about the hot issues like MPAs; but we'll go out and do scoping meetings, spend a bunch of money and go to eight locations, and we get three or four folks come at each one, but the kind of participation we've had online has been much greater.

Mike tracks the folks on the webinars, and the tradeoffs are obviously you don't have to travel somewhere, take time out of your day or whatever you are doing to go be there in the evening to comment. You can get on the webinar and you can look at the stuff that is prepared ahead of time. You can make your comments ahead of time, or whatever, or you can get on the webinar.

We're getting a lot more participation on these webinars than we were getting at our face-to-face meetings. I think this is a good way to move forward with some of the issues that aren't real hot issues. Now, obviously, MPAs is going to be one that I think there is a lot of benefit, and I suspect we'll get a lot of participation at those meetings. That is some of the tradeoffs you face.

MR. BELL: I was just going to say I support that fully. For the last year, the ones we've had in Charleston, we've just had really low attendance. I think we need to try something different, because staff goes to a lot of trouble to set up for these things. If you have two people show up or one person show up, it is an awful lot of effort for not much return. But I was impressed with the webinars we did, so I think we ought to try it.

MR. CUPKA: Yes, and there are a lot of budgetary considerations, too.

MR. HAYMANS: Mr. Chairman, again I'm not on your committee, but, Gregg, I like the half-hour/hour schedule, and I would love to see that tried. We'll see how that works out. I am in agreement with scoping on webinars unless there is a hearing that has a light agenda, in which case I don't see why you couldn't have scoping if there are minimal hearing issues, because you're going to go to face-to-face for hearings, right? That is a definite thing.

MR. WAUGH: Yes.

MR. HAYMANS: Because those three, the dolphin wahoo, the ones we had a couple months ago, they worked well. I would like to see that happen and tried.

DR. DUVAL: I also agree that just with the attendance that we've had at the meetings lately, that I think moving to a webinar approach would be far easier on staff, easier on council members, save a lot of money. I think the one question I did have, it really is kind of specific to the scoping for MPAs that we said we wanted to do in person.

That would be in January, is that correct? I think if that is the case, we've had at least in North Carolina some requests from fishermen with regard to the location. There have been some comments about, well, why are you guys having this in New Bern; and I know it is the location that is easy for staff to get to.

I'm just thinking if its MPAs, that we're going to maybe want to be closer to the coast. I might suggest – I don't know if there are rooms reserved right now – possibly considering the Civic Center again in Morehead City; either that or some place in Wilmington, because I think that is closer to where any proposed sites are going to be. I know we've done them in Wilmington before as well. If it is too late to change it at this point, that is fine. I completely understand that. It is just a suggestion that I wanted to make.

MR. CUPKA: Okay, staff has indicated they aren't locked in at this point.

MR. MAHOOD: We want to hear from the council members from the different states well ahead of time where they would like to hold the meetings; but again this is one of the benefits of the webinar. It doesn't matter where you are, you can participate. Whereas, we do get a lot of complaints about why don't you have ten of them here in our area so I don't have to drive so far and this type of thing. Just let us know; it is not convenience to the staff. We're always looking for new sushi restaurants, so new places will work for us.

MR. CUPKA: Okay, I don't think we need a motion on this. I think that can be a direction to staff and they will go on that approach. We'll see what happens. Hopefully, it will be better all the way around.

MR. WAUGH: Okay, so we'll go with scheduling on the hour and half-hour, and in general we'll do the scoping via webinar except if it is a hot issue or except if we have a light schedule at hearings. That would be nice if we get to that point. Just to touch again; these dates, we're not locked into these dates yet, but those are the ones we have penned in. The locations are just where we've held them in the past. If anybody wants to shift them from these, if you'll please let me know it before we adjourn tomorrow, because we need to get on these pretty quickly.

MR. MAHOOD: Right; and at this point in time we still have funding for the council members in the area to attend; but just let us know ahead of time. If you want to attend the meetings in your state, we can accommodate that. I did have one question kind of for Jessica and Ben and John.

One of the things I know we're going to get criticized for is on the Florida/Bahamas Issue Amendment on dolphin wahoo. The meeting we're going to take it up is in North Carolina. I always get calls about that kind of thing, but I don't know that it is going to be a major problem in this case. Do you all see a problem with that?

MR. JOLLEY: If we solve it; it is not a problem.

MR. CUPKA: Point well taken.

DR. DUVAL: I was just going to say similar to what council staff has done for other items, you could probably put together a PowerPoint presentation that could be available on the website or do a short question-and-answer kind of webinar in advance of that December meeting. If people do have questions, they can get them answered.

It is not a hearing and that way things can go smoothly in December and nobody is upset, hopefully. Hopefully, they would be happier that we're taking it up sooner rather than waiting until we're in a location that is closer to the folks who might be affected.

MR. MAHOOD: I would also invite everybody to watch these webinars, watch the staff presentation. Mike now has a studio in his office where the members are taped and do their thing. Really, at the end of the year I'd like to have an awards ceremony for the best actor and actress, presenter, whatever. It is really interesting, and I know Brian was shaking in his boots when he had to do his first one.

MR. CUPKA: That is very innovative, and I think it has worked well. I want to commend staff on developing that process.

MR. WAUGH: Just to recap for the January round of public hearings; what we're looking at is Amendment 22, which is a recreational tag program to track harvest; 29 is the ORCS revision of the Control Rule; 31 is the blueline tilefish rebuilding program; Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 17 for scoping, and that may turn into being an amendment.

We're still trying to sort this out. We haven't done EISs on regulatory amendments. Generally they are EAs. That may just be a terminology and numbering issue there. Then the Snapper Grouper Framework; and the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Framework – so it would be those six items at hearings.

As was mentioned, for attending we've got a draft in here of who would Chair – and this is just a draft. We haven't spoken to anybody. If you are not planning on attending, let us know as soon as you can. If you want to attend more than what is on this list, please let us know. That takes care of January.

We had penned in some potential for April, because that was one of the options for doing MPAs. We're scratching that. And then looking ahead to August, the same sort of thing, these are just placeholder locations. We kind of like the dates. We're very careful to stay away from spiny lobster season. That opens on August 6.

Then the amendments we're looking at there would be – that would be a public hearing for Regulatory Amendment 17; and I guess the same comment that applied to scoping, we would look to do that either in Morehead or Wilmington.

Then the Joint Amendment 24, which looks at allocations for king. The Gulf will have one species; we have one species so far, and then our Generic Allocation Amendment. Then the same thing with chairs and attendees, and this could change depending on changes in committees as well.

MR. HAYMANS: Gregg, would you just go roll back to the dates real quick, please. That's good, thank you. Okay.

MR. WAUGH: Then people have asked about future council meetings. We do have sort of a permanent way to calculate when our council meets, so you can look forward much beyond this list. What we've got on here are 2014; and then 2015 meeting weeks, but no locations yet. I'm

sure Mike would say it is not too soon to start thinking about that and people getting their input into him.

DR. DUVAL: I guess, Gregg, I can just get up with you and Mike. I'm just looking at calendars and the ASMFC Summer meeting is August 4th through 6th in 2014. I think that might have been sort of the general range of dates you were targeting for August public hearings in 2014. We can get together later, I guess.

MR. HARTIG: Yes, I think it was evident from the workgroups meeting, when we met in Key Largo, Marathon, and Key West, that holding our only meeting for public hearings in Key Largo probably isn't in the best interest of getting good comment. At least if we're going to hold one hearing down, there it should be probably either in Marathon or Key West.

If you really want to get to the core fishermen's input, you need to get down where the core fishermen are. That was pretty apparent. I think we had the best turnout in Key West. At least some time, Mike, as we go through the hearings and get down to Key West, maybe Marathon and Key West instead of Key Largo. I think that would help tremendously.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes, we can help with those locations. There is really not a good location in Marathon that is big enough, so we actually go over to Key Colony that has a larger location and is free and can accommodate us. If you want help trying to find locations in that area; especially free ones, we can help with that.

MR. CUPKA: Nothing wrong with free ones.

MR. WAUGH: I guess, Ben and Jessica, that would apply to the January round as well; instead of Largo, you would rather do that South Florida one in Marathon.

MR. HARTIG: If we can; I mean, if things haven't been booked yet. The other question I had, Gregg, is what are we going out in Regulatory Amendment 17 to the public with for scoping?

MR. WAUGH: You all would be deciding that at the December meeting. The plan right now is you have requested several presentations and then you've described how you want the actions and alternatives structured. Staff and the IPT will populate those subalternatives according to the characteristic for them. Then at the December meeting you all would look at that and determine what you wanted to take out to scoping.

MR. HARTIG: Thanks; I forgot about December.

MR. WAUGH: Then this heading is where particularly committee chairs, if you want to track and make sure things are getting done from your committee – the timing and task motion will be copied right in here, and then we keep track of this in between meetings as we get stuff done.

That is one thing. We send this out to you all after the meeting, but then don't send it to you again until the briefing book. Is that something you all would like us to send to you like once a month so that you can see in the interim what is going on? I'm seeing yes, yes; okay. What we try to do is work at least two to three council meetings out.

Like this was a draft for September; and then as we got closer to September, it gets changed some, and you will see what is in the briefing book is the final. We've got December laid out here, and particularly committee chairs may just want to take a look at that. We're planning on another visioning workshop Monday morning; a data workshop Monday afternoon at the December meeting.

ACCSP wanted to give us a presentation at this meeting. We told them it was just too full, but we're going to schedule that next meeting. When we get into the Data Committee after lunch, we'll talk about this Regional Electronic Monitoring Policy. George Lapointe is going to come and give a presentation there. I've discussed with Dr. Ponwith to have the Center give us a presentation on the Commercial Quota Monitoring Program.

We're working to see what Nick's availability is as we discussed during Snapper Grouper. I think it would be helpful for Nick and Roger to be at that workshop and have the opportunity to meet with council members one on one and show you the tools that are available for you to then look at the list of sites that are under each of these alternatives and do some tradeoffs. Then when Snapper Grouper Committee comes up later in the week, you are ready to give us some guidance.

Then we've got various other committees meeting. Some of the times will change here, because we've only got a day for Snapper Grouper and generally it takes a little longer than that. Then we will have to get some input for the Comprehensive Allocation Amendment. In discussions thus far, our recommendation is rather than forming an Allocation Committee, we operate sort of similar to how we did the Comprehensive ACL Amendment.

This will have snapper grouper in it and have dolphin wahoo in it. The Dolphin Wahoo Committee can meet and provide their recommendations on dolphin and wahoo and then Snapper Grouper Committee meet and provide recommendations on snapper grouper and then it just funnels in together. We'll need some input there.

We will have MARMAP making a presentation there, also. Mackerel, dolphin wahoo – so you can look at those as committee chairs and see. But, again, looking ahead to December, potential for final actions are CE-BA 3 and Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 for scoping and/or public hearings. We've got Snapper Grouper Amendments 22, 29, 31 for hearings; framework for snapper grouper and mackerel for public hearings; Snapper Grouper MPA Regulatory Amendment for scoping; Generic Allocation Amendment for scoping.

The idea here is just to get guidance this week on some of the process and priorities only in terms of what staff needs to work on to bring to you in December. At the December meeting we'll have this fleshed out more; and then at December we'll go through that prioritization process so that we have a clear understanding of what we're to work on for the rest of 2014.

MR. CUPKA: Thank you, Gregg; that was an excellent overview and summary. I'll see if there are any questions for you. I don't see any.

MR. WAUGH: Just to point out; I only get up here to present this. Our staff gets together and go through this in detail, and there was a lot of discussion about whether this was biting off too

much for snapper grouper in particular. There are a lot of items here on the front end. We also have discussions with the Regional Office.

I discuss with Jack to make sure we're not overloading ourselves. It is going to be challenging, but a lot of these amendments don't have as many actions in them. Based on the recommendations from the committees that has met thus far, this schedule still looks feasible. Nobody has recommended changing anything thus far.

MR. CUPKA: It is an important document, particularly if you are committee chair to follow and make sure things are getting done and are planned for. All right, other business; port meetings, Michelle, do you want to try and wrap up some discussion on our port meetings while we have a little time here?

DR. DUVAL: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple things left over from visioning; everybody should have received kind of a cleaned-up document of the large goals and objective statements that we were going through on Monday. I think some outstanding items there are drafting of broad statements for each of those four major goal theme categories.

I think that is something that the visioning workgroup can work on and e-mail around to council members for review between now and the December meeting, but that would be one item that I would see taking to port meetings. Another one – and this is kind of following on how the South Florida Workshops were structured – would be to kind of have some kind of presentation.

Jessica, you had offered to pass along Martha's presentation and I think that would be good just for us to see how it was structured. The other thing is I think we need to get some more Mel Bell type questions of what are three things the council is doing well and what are three things the council is not doing well with regard to snapper grouper management just so we can have that really focused input at port meetings that we're looking for.

I think those questions could be folded into whatever presentation is given by staff. In terms of timing, I think just given everything that staff has going on, everything that we have going on and the fact that it has really just been at the August public hearings, that we put out on the website and distributed for people to look at our one pagers and overviews on the visioning process.

There have not been that many comments that have been submitted to the public comment e-mail. I think we really need to give fishermen and other constituents time to think about this and have ideas sort of percolate from the bottom up. I mean this is supposed to be a very bottom-up process.

I think if we were trying to try to start scheduling any kind of port meetings now, we'd be getting ahead of ourselves and it would be more top down, and that is not what we're looking for. My advice would be let's wait until the December meeting and try to see what kind of interest we get from different constituent groups for hosting these port meetings and make some decisions at the December meeting in terms of location.

That said, we have to balance the staff workload and staff time with the number of locations. We all submitted a variety of locations. I think for most states it was at least four. I think we need to

settle on a couple different models for how we could go about these. We could take a panel approach, which is sort of how Florida did it.

I think my advice there would be we need to make sure that council members, when they attend, are really kind of sitting in the back of the room and sort of don't speak unless spoken to or directly asked a question. We want to make sure that the folks who are attending these meetings feel free and uninhibited to voice their thoughts and not feeling sort of a top-down kind of a council member is running this particular session. That's just my advice.

We could have sort of a panel approach with a short presentation to kick things off and some focus questions to solicit the kind of input that we're looking for. I think it would be advisable if it was at all possible to double up on locations. Maybe there are two different constituencies or several different constituencies that we might be able to meet in the same location but at different times. That would be another suggestion.

One thing that came to my mind was that as more people find out about this, there may be requests for more meetings than staff really has the ability to accommodate. I think we need to maybe consider another model whereby a saltwater fishing club in Raleigh says, hey, we'd like to have someone come and talk about this.

If we can have a presentation that has been developed, I would be willing to go up there and do that and not have to involve staff, but make sure that I could have just one of those little recorders to make sure that I'm capturing all of the dialogue appropriately and taking notes and providing a summary. Staff might be able to help with some of that, but just so that we don't suck up all of staff's available time to traveling to all of these places and additional places that might bubble up beyond the ones that are kind of brought forward by our ambassadors, as was suggested by Chris. I just wanted to spit out those thoughts really quick on how to move forward.

MR. CUPKA: Michelle and I did discuss some parts of that, but she has obviously gone beyond some of our discussions. I think she has had some good thoughts there on how to proceed with this. I would like to hear from council members if you have any difference of opinion.

MR. HARTIG: I think the South Florida Workgroups, having the staffs at the table and the council members; I don't think that encumbered people at all. The key was the relaxed atmosphere of not having to come to the podium, people being able to talk from their seat, and actually there was a little bit of interchange in the audience.

We tried to keep that at a minimum; but when there was a topic that came up that other people were interested in, to be able to let them comment on that when it came up, so people didn't have to have their train of thought for everything they wanted to say. They could comment, hey, yes, I wanted to comment on that, to be able to do that. Sometimes having the interactions with council members and with people with a lot of information on the fishery helps to get the information you're looking for. Not that we need to carry on long conversations, which I did at the South Florida Workgroup, unfortunately. At one of them it was sick, because the three issues that we had been seeing boom, boom up and down the coast came up the first three times. That was tough. I apologize to the staff.

MR. CUPKA: How very uncharacteristic of you, Ben.

MS. McCAWLEY: Not like him at all. That's why we had to have a three-hour time block instead of two for those workshops.

MR. HARTIG: No, they were dragging me kicking and screaming out of the workshop, but it was great. I don't have the feeling that we really need to be – I think it would be actually a plus for the people to know that council members are there and listening to what they are actually saying in a much more relaxed atmosphere. We can try it and see how it works.

DR. DUVAL: I'm not disagreeing at all with the relaxed atmosphere approach and no podium. I'm thinking if someone wants to have a meeting at their fish house or something like that, that is the kind of bottom-up approach that I'm looking for. I guess my concern is I don't want council members to be there feeling like they need to be saying something.

I think it is good for council members to be there and absolutely be listening; and if there is a question that someone wants to ask a council member and a council member is the most appropriate person to answer, great. I'm not necessarily dissuading those kinds of conversations, but I just don't want constituents who are coming to these meetings to feel intimidated by the presence of council members. That's my goal. I know that is not what you want or are talking about.

MR. HARTIG: To follow up on that; there are going to be a lot of questions, absolutely going to be a lot of questions. Whether or not whoever is conducting that hearing can answer those questions is going to be critical to getting the comment you want back from the public. I saw the interchange getting back and forth.

We went around and talked about shark management and maybe we should align sharks with spawning potential ratios of how we manage our fisheries and keep sharks in line with our other fisheries. These kinds of things all came around in these discussions, and they were great.

MS. McCAWLEY: To that point; I see what you're saying about not wanting people to feel intimidated, but one point of feedback that we got at most of the workshops was they felt like by having the council members up there in a panel; that they felt like, okay, here's my chance to really tell them what I think.

They saw their council members from Florida. They saw their FWC staff. They saw the research staff and they thought, well, wow, this is the first time that I really feel like these people are right here. I can speak to them all as a group and ask them questions, tell them what I think, ask them about the research. I think that interaction was something that they were looking for. They felt like, okay, well, here is a special situation that has been set up for me to talk directly to them and not to some staffer. They actually seemed to like that. I didn't mean that in a negative way.

DR. DUVAL: I definitely appreciate that perspective and direct input and experience from what you all just went through. I think we should just be flexible as these things go forward, and I think tailor the approach to how the meeting is going as well. I am not at all disagreeing with council members being there.

I think it is critical that they are there and that they are visible. It is just making sure that I guess there is not such eagerness on the part of council members to engage in that dialogue that it ends up sort of taking over or prohibiting other folks from participating in the conversation. I don't disagree with any of the suggestions that you all have made.

MR. CUPKA: Okay; any other comments on this topic?

MR. HARTIG: John Carmichael, one thing we're going to need going into this is a one-page primer or two pages on how we do stock assessments. That came up every time and we tried to answer that question. Maybe in the MREP stuff you have something short and sweet that we can hand out to the public, because that was a common theme.

MS. McCAWLEY: Yes, to that point, Mr. Chairman, at all of these workshops as is what often happens at FWC workshops; sometimes it was hard for people to even comment until they could get past their questions about the data or just in general how stock assessment are run. After we were able to cross that barrier with those questions, which usually probably took about – depending on the workshop – 30 to 45 minutes of just back and forth answering about fishery-independent data, fishery-dependent data, how the stock assessments are run, how they can provide comments. Then it was when we really got into the productive comments. I would be prepared for those types of questions, because that seems to be at the forefront of the fishermen's mind.

MR. CUPKA: Yes, and I think that is pretty typical of any of those types of activities I've participated in the past. People have things they want to get off their chest, and you have to let them do that before you can really start getting input.

DR. PONWITH: Question on that point; did you find that the questions were more process-oriented or content-oriented? In other words, how does the SEDAR process work and when is the appropriate place for me to participate and infuse my opinions on that or is it how do you conduct a stock assessment; what are the data inputs and what do the data outputs look like?

MS. McCAWLEY: It was less of the process and more of I don't understand what data goes into a stock assessment. I don't understand what fisheries-dependent data is, fishery-independent data; I don't understand how it is collected. I don't understand how all this goes into a model and you are not out there trying to count every single fish. I would say it was more of that part.

MR. CUPKA: Other comments? Is there any other business?

MS. BECKWITH: My only addition to this would be between now and our December meeting – and our workgroup can kind of chat about this with the staff – is trying to figure out a way to do some outreach to those permit holders that are easily identifiable now and try and get e-mail addresses and potential bits of educational outreach; maybe get suggestions from those folks what areas that they would be willing to attend meetings.

I mean, we can kind of go through, but having some of that initial contact and really trying to get those e-mail contacts for all of those people, which would make it much easier later on in the process to communicate and get the kind of turnout that we're looking for.

MR. CUPKA: All right, is there any other business to come before this committee? Seeing none; then we are adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 o'clock p.m., September 19, 2013.)

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cindy.chaya@safmc.net

Purchasing & Grants

Julie O'Dell
✓ julie.odell@safmc.net

PLEASE SIGN IN

So that we will have a record of your attendance at each meeting and so that your name may be included in the minutes, we ask that you sign this sheet for the meeting shown below.

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting: Executive Finance Committee Thursday, September 19, 2013

<u>NAME & ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AREA CODE & PHONE NUMBER</u>	<u>EMAIL ADDRESS</u>	<u>P.O. BOX/STREET CITY, STATE & ZIP</u>
Liam Jim	843-819-8169	l.jim@pamtrusts.org	PO Box 9351 Chas. SC 29402
Robyn O'Brien	386-239-0948	rob@pamtrusts.org	PO Box 9351 32120-9351
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South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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69	MacLauchlin, Bill	billmac@charter.net	242 min
62	Laban, Elisabeth	labane@dnr.sc.gov	389 min
58	Mehta, Nikhil	nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov	503 min
54	conklin, chris	conklincc@gmail.com	73 min
53	holiman, stephen	stephen.holiman@noaa.gov	359 min
39	Bresnen, Anthony	anthony.bresnen@myfwc.com...	509 min
39	michie, kate	kate.michie@noaa.gov	395 min
39	Knowlton, Kathy	kathy.knowlton@gadnr.org	186 min
37	raine, karen	karen.raine@noaa.gov	388 min
36	burton, michael	michael.burton@noaa.gov	183 min
35	Stump, Ken	maggiewdc@gmail.com	447 min
33	malinowski, rich	rich.malinowski@noaa.gov	136 min
33	DeVictor, Rick	rick.devictor@noaa.gov	435 min
33	Lee, Jennifer	jennifer.lee@noaa.gov	460 min
31	c, m	mec181@yahoo.com	497 min
30	Ballenger, Joseph	ballengerj@dnr.sc.gov	462 min
29	sandorf, scott	scott.sandorf@noaa.gov	480 min
29	Herndon, Andrew	andrew.herndon@noaa.gov	114 min
28	E, A	annemarie.eich@noaa.gov	404 min
28	Helies, Frank	fchelies@verizon.net	410 min
28	froeschke, j	john.froeschke@gulfcounci...	408 min
25	FARMER, NICK	nick.farmer@noaa.gov	225 min
24	pugliese, roger	roger.pugliese@safmc.net	77 min
24	Pate, Michelle	pates@dnr.sc.gov	120 min
24	Brame, Adam	adam.brame@noaa.gov	72 min
23	Bademan, Martha	martha.bademan@myfwc.com	99 min
22	Sedberry, George	george.sedberry@noaa.gov	59 min
22	Recks, Melissa	melissa.recks@myfwc.com	62 min

22	Defilippi, Julie	julie.defilippi@accsp.org...	44 min
22	Sempsrott, Michell...	michelle.sempsrott@myfwc...	95 min