

**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**JOINT EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wilmington, North Carolina**  
**December 2, 2008**

The Executive and Finance Committees met in joint session the morning of December 2, 2008 in Wilmington, North Carolina. The minutes from the September 15, 2008 Joint Executive Finance Committee were approved. The Committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

**1. CY 2008 Council budget**

Bob referred the Council to Attachments 1A and 1B. He reminded everyone how we had to develop our initial budget for FY 2008, prior to knowing exactly what our funding level would be, and what has transpired subsequent to establishing that budget. We did not receive the level of funding anticipated and have had to watch our expenditures very closely. He indicated that we will make it through the year with a surplus greater than had been reported at the September 2008 Executive/Finance Committee meeting. Based on what we have expended to-date, known obligations for the rest of the year and the actual amount of funding the Council received for 2008, we should end the year with a balance of approximately 104K. However, a significant portion of those funds (59K) are for two SEDAR procedural workshops that will not be held during 2008.

**2. Presidential/Congressional FY 2009 Budgets for the Department of Commerce**

Congress did not pass a Department of Commerce budget prior to the beginning of the October 1, 2008 fiscal year. We are currently operating under a continuing resolution at FY 2008 budget levels. It is doubtful that the FY 2009 budget will be approved before the change of administrations and the continuing resolution will carry forward into next year. There are two potential FY 2009 budget scenarios being discussed. They include: (1) maintaining the current continuing resolution for the remainder of FY 2009 or (2) developing an omnibus spending Bill for the FY 2009 budget. However, since we do not know what will happen or when, we are planning our activities based on CY 2008 funding levels.

**3. CY 2009-2010 FMP/Amendment/Framework Timelines**

The Committee reviewed the CY 2009-2010 FMP/Amendment/Framework Timelines. No changes were made to the current timelines.

**4. CY 2009 Activities Schedule**

Bob provided the proposed CY 2009 Activities Schedule, indicating the associated costs of the planned meetings. There was some discussion about the status of developing a Calico Scallop FMP and Bob indicated funds and staff resources were not available at this time to proceed. Also, development of the next mackerel amendment was discussed, along with the potential need for budgeted funds to meet jointly with the Gulf Council. Consideration of this funding will be addressed later in 2009 or in 2010 when it is expected the next mackerel amendment will be developed.

Bob briefed the Committee on the SEDAR activities and the associated costs, indicating staff had prepared two SEDAR activity levels, the first with full funding and the second with reduced cost funding. These have been provided to Bonnie Ponwith, SEFSC Director.

It was agreed the CY 2009 Activities Schedule will be considered an interim schedule until it is determined how much funding the Council will receive in FY 2009.

**5. CY 2009 Budget**

Bob provided the Committee with the proposed CY 2009 budget along with the anticipated funding sources. There was discussion about how the cost savings in the FY 2009 budget were achieved and Bob explained these to the Committee and answered other specific questions relative to various budget line items. It was pointed out that the Scientific and Statistical Committee budget line has been increased to allow for a third SSC meeting during 2009.

Bob requested the Council consider this an interim working budget and not approve it at this time. The Committee agreed that the budget presented will be a place holder working budget until such time it is determined what the Council's actual funding will be in FY 2009.

**There were no motions.**