

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Webinar
April 11, 2025**

Executive Committee

Trish Murphey, Chair
Jessica McCawley, Vice Chair
Dr. Carolyn Belcher

Kerry Marhefka
Amy W. Dukes

Council Staff

John Carmichael
Myra Brouwer
Dr. Chip Collier
Julia Byrd

Kelly Klasnick
Suzanna Thomas
Christina Wiegand
Dr. Judd Curtis

Attendees and Invited Participants

Monica Smit-Brunello

Observers and Participants

Other observers and participants attached.

The Executive Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened at via webinar on Friday, April 11, 2025, and was called to order by Chairman Trish Murphey.

MS. MURPHEY: I'll go ahead and start. We have approval of the agenda. We are going to add some discussion to Other Business on the council committee membership from other -- Or committee memberships from other councils. We're going to talk about that in Other Business. Other than that, do I have anybody who would like to make a motion to approve the agenda?

MS. MCCAWLEY: So moved.

MS. MURPHEY: Thank you, Jessica. A second?

DR. BELCHER: I'll second.

MS. MURPHEY: All right. Carolyn seconds. Any discussion? Any objections? The motion passes, and the same for minutes. Any substantial edits to minutes?

MR. KLASNICK: I am not seeing any hands.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay. Are we good with just passing that by consensus?

MR. CARMICHAEL Yes, that works.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay. Thanks. Okay, John, and we'll hand it over to you.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Okay. Thank you, Trish. So the committee, in closed session, had a discussion of where the budget stands. At this point, we still do not have our final budget numbers from National Marine Fishery Service. To some extent, that's not completely unusual. It's often not available until the time of the CCC meeting, which is usually sometime in early to mid-May, and so we are optimistic that we will get budget numbers by that time.

It could be a little later, because there have been indications, from National Marine Fisheries, about councils being able to survive on the funds that they have in-hand, and they have been dispersed through May, and so we may not see additional funding until June. We've received about 40 percent of expected funds on our current 2025 admin grant, which also really isn't out of line with past years, and so, to that extent, things are kind of proceeding as expected in many ways.

There is, of course, the big uncertainty of what the actual budget numbers are, and it does seem like it's likely any significant cuts could very well come into the next year's budget, but, for now, we are still uncertain. We're still acting very proactive, when it comes to expenditures and, you know, spending money, and particularly planning meetings say into the fall. We're going to hold off on those as long as we can, until we have a better sense of the budget, but, as far as the rest of this year, we don't have any plans, and at this point don't really see that we have a need, to move say council meetings to virtual formats, and things of that nature, because we have contracts.

We would pay a penalty, significant, if we were to say decide to make our June meeting or September meeting virtual, and so, at this point, we're continuing with those as planned, and we'll

-- You know, we have AP meetings that we've held, and we have the SSC coming up. Those are continuing. Those are contracted.

That's really what we know on the budget now, but, because of this uncertainty, we did discuss a number of contracts that were pending, really for some kind of extra work, for various things related to the anniversary of MSA that's coming up next year, and a few other things that would come out of the admin budget, and, because of the uncertainty, we're not going to move forward on those at this time, just really not the kind of thing we need to be spending money on. We need to focus on our priorities and our main responsibilities of getting FMPs done.

We're also going to initiate a meeting and reach out to the Regional Administrator, Andy Strelcheck, about having a meeting with the ExCom to discuss priorities. He's mentioned the need for determining regulatory, versus deregulatory, actions at the March council meeting. He has had some meetings with the representatives of the Gulf. We want to have a similar meeting in the South Atlantic, prior to our June meeting, and, you know, just to try to get a sense of where he is in their capabilities and how that's going to impact our work on FMPs, in particular.

There's, of course, growing concern about various data collection programs, particularly those that are, you know, funneling money to the states, but, you know, we've also heard discussions of reduced funding in the headboat program and other things, and so I think there's some rough roads ahead of us, and we want to try to stay ahead of it, as much as we can, and so I will reach out to Andy to set up a meeting, hopefully before the June meeting, but, if he needs some feedback sooner, I will be back in touch with the Executive Committee.

Trish, that's a good summary, I think, of what we discussed in the closed session. We did discuss the changes in state liaison grants, and so, I think, you know, someone will make a motion on that, but, if anybody wants to add anything else to what I just said, I think that would be the time.

MS. MURPHEY: All right. Thank you, John. Anybody have any additions, or does someone out there want to make a motion on the liaison budget?

MS. MARHEFKA: I'll make it, since I'm the only non-state person.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay.

MS. MARHEFKA: **I'll make the motion to use the 2019 through 2022 values for the state liaison grants, and feel free --**

MS. DUKES: Madam Chair, I'll second that.

MS. MARHEFKA: Feel free to edit it in a way that works for you.

MR. CARMICHAEL: I think that works fine.

MS. MURPHEY: Thank you, Kerry. I think we had Amy second it.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Kelly is trying to type with his arms stretched out, and so bear with him.

MR. KLASNICK: I'm not doing too good. There we go.

MR. CARMICHAEL: All right. There it is.

MS. MURPHEY: That was a motion by Kerry, and a second by Amy. Any discussion? I'm not seeing any hands.

MR. KLASNICK: No hands.

MS. MURPHEY: **Any objections to this motion?**

MR. KLASNICK: No hands.

MS. MURPHEY: **The motion passes.** Thank you. I guess now we'll go to Other Business and discussing the input that we have had recently from other councils on our decision to remove committee members from other councils off our committees. I attended the Mid-Atlantic Council meeting yesterday, and heard a lot of feedback from them, and so I wonder if it would be good to have further discussion on this feedback, or have further discussion at our June meeting. I don't know if anybody has any thoughts on that. Would anybody -- I think we probably need a motion to have this added to our June agenda, if we would like to discuss this further.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Yes, and we have Jessica.

MS. MURPHEY: Go ahead, Jessica.

MS. MCCAWLEY: **Yes, I move that we add this topic to our June council meeting agenda for closed session discussion.**

MS. MURPHEY: All right. Thank you, Jessica, and do we have a second?

DR. BELCHER: I'll second it.

MS. MURPHEY: Thank you, Carolyn.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Add the topic of committee membership to the June council meeting for closed session discussion. So, while we're getting it up there, I'll say, you know, what we know is kind of the Mid-Atlantic talked about this. I spoke to Chris at the Mid-Atlantic, and Kate at the New England, after the council made this, so they knew. We notified the folks who were involved and were committee members up until that time.

As Trish said, there was a lot of discussion yesterday at the Mid-Atlantic. There's some concern, and I think, in particular, concern exists for say CMP and dolphin wahoo, where our jurisdiction extends into their areas, and so what we would plan to do, in this closed session, is to bring back, you know, the input that we've received so far.

Then there will also be additional input, because there's the East Coast Coordination Group, which will meet after the CCC, where this is already on the agenda, and then there's also the CCC meeting, where we expect some discussion, and then there's the CMOD meeting, where

representatives from all the councils gather, and we'll also --We're already planning on talking about governance, and that's what this affects, and so what we'll be able to do in June is bring back the various input from these different meetings, and also discuss the council -- You know like are there other ways of getting the effective input that we need at the FMP level, and then give you an update on some projects that are planned, that are funded through those IRA grants, but came out of the scenario planning discussions, to look at governance and to look at the use of committees across the Atlantic councils, and this certainly falls squarely within that.

We can give you guys a full update on that, and then, you know, you guys can talk about it as you wish, and give some additional guidance. I anticipate there may be being support across the Atlantic for some guidelines on committee usage being developed as a result of these EC3G coordinated projects, and so I think that's on the horizon. It's just several years out before we get there.

MS. MURPHEY: Right. Thanks, John. I was just going to add that, you know, there was a lot of concern voiced on the Mid-Atlantic Council meeting yesterday about our committee membership, and, you know, they were also willing to have South Atlantic Council folks on their committees, and so I think this is a very good discussion for us to have at these other committee meetings in the future here, and so thank you. I had a motion and a second. Any further discussion?

MR. KLASNICK: Jessica has her hand up.

MS. MURPHEY: Jessica.

MS. MCCAWLEY: It was just a leftover hand.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay. Thank you. Any objections to this motion?

MR. KLASNICK: Seeing no hands.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay. **The motion passes.** Thank you. All right. Does anybody have anything else we're going to talk about? The awards? Okay.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Well, I just provided this to you guys, to update you on all of the various contracts that are underway, because I know you see things about we're putting out RFPs, and we're doing this, that, and the other, and things are happening, and, you know, we're also talking about, and we have talked about, issues and uncertainties with the current budget, and so I just wanted to make sure that you were aware of the various funding pots that we're operating under this year.

It's an unprecedented number of individual grants that we are managing, and we are tracking in-house, and these are different funding sources where the money has been conveyed into what we can access through National Marine Fisheries Service. It's all above and beyond our current admin grant, and so we just wanted to provide this out there, so at least, you know, on the ExCom, you can see where all these stand, the status of these various grants, and, you know, just really make sure that you're in the loop on all of this stuff, and then, you know, you're not sometimes wondering why are they putting out an RFP for all this money to get this MSE input, when we're, you know, talking about not having money.

Really, it felt like, for transparency, and getting you guys in the loop, I just wanted to provide this overview for you. You know, if there's any big-picture questions, I think we can take them now. If you really have any in-the-weeds questions or something, you know, just reach out to me and Chip and Kelly. We can direct you in the right direction and answer your questions, as much as we can.

MS. MURPHEY: Thank you, John. Sorry, and I didn't mean to skip over this. Anybody have any questions for John on all the projects that are going on and pending?

MR. KLASNICK: I'm not seeing any hands up, Trish.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay.

MR. CARMICHAEL: Then, Trish, just to remind you that like you'll get regular updates on these various projects at the council meeting, as we've been doing, and so, you know, this just kind of gives you a snapshot of all of them, because that -- You'll sort of get information on them as they develop, and, again, we just felt it was important, given the budget discussions, to let you know there's a lot of funds, lots of money, right now that exists, and, you know, so far they're still accessible. If any of that should change, you'll certainly be the first to know.

MS. MURPHEY: All right. Thanks, John. Any questions for John? Do we have anything else, John? Are we good to go?

MR. CARMICHAEL: No more business here.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay. Anybody have anything else to discuss before we adjourn?

MR. KLASNICK: Not seeing any hands, Trish.

MS. MURPHEY: Okay. All right. Well, thank you, everyone, and we'll be catching up soon and see folks in June.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on April 11, 2025.)

- - -

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

Transcribed By
Amanda Thomas
April 21, 2025

SAFMC **Executive**
Attendee Report: Committee Open Session

Report Generated:
04/11/2025 01:47 PM EDT

Webinar ID
431-412-475

Actual Start Date/Time
04/11/2025 11:05 AM EDT

Staff Details

Last Name	First Name
Klasnick	01Kelly
Carmichael	John

Last Name	First Name
Belcher	Carolyn
Brouwer	Myra
Byrd	Julia
Curtis	Judd
Dukes	Amy
Marhefka	00Kerry
McCawley	00-Jessica
Murphey	Trish
Smit-Brunello	Monica
Wiegand	Christina
collier	chip
thomas	suz