EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Cocoa Beach, FL

June 16, 2016

SUMMARY MINUTES

Executive Finance Committee

Dr. Michelle Duval, Chair Charlie Phillips, Vice-Chair

Mel Bell (via webinar)

Ben Hartig

Jessica McCawley

Robert Boyles

Council Members:

Anna Beckwith Zack Bowen
Chester Brewer Mark Brown
Chris Conklin (via webinar) Jack Cox

Dr. Roy Crabtree Doug Haymans
Dr. Wilson Laney Robert Beal

Council Staff:

Gregg Waugh

Mike Collins

John Carmichael

Dr. Brian Cheuvront

Dr. Kari MacLauchlin Chip Collier

Kim Iverson Amber Von Harten
Julie O'Dell Myra Brouwer
John Hadley Dr. Mike Errigo

Roger Pugliese

Observers/Participants:

Dr. Andy Strelcheck
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith
Dr. Jack McGovern
Nik Mehta
Dr. Marcel Reichert
Erika Burgess
Rick DeVictor
Iris Lowery
Jeff Radonski
Jocelyn D'Ambrosio
Rob O'Reilly
John Sanchez
Tracy Dunn

Additional Observers Attached

Executive Finance Committee
June 16, 2016
Cocoa Beach, FL

The Executive Finance Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront, Cocoa Beach, Florida, Thursday afternoon, June 16, 2016, and was called to order by Chairman Michelle Duval.

DR. DUVAL: We will go ahead and call the Executive Finance Committee to order. The members of the committee are myself, Charlie Phillips, Mel Bell, Ben Hartig, and Jessica McCawley. The first item of business is Approval of the Agenda. I know there are several items under Other Business that we need to cover. As I mentioned earlier, we will go as far as we can until just before 3:30, and so, if there are no other modifications to the agenda, we will consider the agenda approved.

The next item is Approval of the March 2016 committee minutes. If there are no changes to those minutes, the minutes will be considered approved. The next item is the Council Year 2016 Budget, and Mike and Gregg are going to take us through that, and that is Attachments 1 through 3 in your briefing book.

MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. What you have in front of you is the final expended for 2015 and the draft for 2016. I think we're pretty much on track, as you will see in the next slide. The one thing I want to point out on the Draft 2016 is the Administrative Contracts. It's bumped a little bit, and, just to give you some explanation, that's for the website upgrade, the app upgrade, and the Dave Whaley contract that you're all familiar with. Other than that, I think we're right in the ballpark for the year.

Here you will see the status of 2016. The only one that kind of stands out, that you might have a question about, is Healthcare, being a little bit over 50 percent, and that's because we frontloaded with the HSA deposits in January. Eventually, through the year, it catches up, and it should balance out, but, other than that, I will entertain any questions.

DR. DUVAL: Are there any questions for Mike? Seeing none, if I could get a motion from the committee to approve the Council Year 2016 Budget.

MR. BOYLES: So moved.

DR. DUVAL: Motion by Robert and second by Ben. Is there any discussion? **Any objection? Seeing none, that motion stands approved.** The next item of business is the Council Follow-Up and 2016 Priorities, which is Attachments 4a and 4b in your briefing book.

DR. CHEUVRONT: I just wanted to point out you -- Not to go through all the activities and stuff that we have, but that's that big document that's in there, that explains what the council is doing. I will just give you a quick, abbreviated update on activities. Between now and the September council meeting, we will be having scoping and public hearings for several documents, and so you will be getting comments back from those in September.

Right now, at this point, we're probably thinking there is going to need to be several AP meetings that will occur between the September and December meeting. I think we'll probably have to have Dolphin, and we'll have Snapper Grouper, as we usually do, and there may be a couple of others, but we will work that out with staff, and we will probably be able to come back with some recommendations for exactly which AP meetings need to be held at that time.

What I would like to do is to talk about some of the priorities that we're working on right now, for the next couple of years. Some of it, we're really not -- We can't really say for sure yet, because we're going to have to work through several things, but what I would like to do is the Snapper Grouper Committee talked about having two different amendments coming out of visioning, and so what I did was I took that document that appears in your briefing book and I modified it, as best I could, based on the things that you've discussed this week, that you have said you wanted to do, and tried to fit it into the existing schedule, to give you an idea of how things could fall into place over time.

Now, we've got a couple of other things that we probably are going to need to talk about. There is two probable CMP amendments that we'll need to fit in somehow, and you're going to see that's going to be a little difficult, given Kari's schedule, but I will talk about those in a moment.

There is one other that came up during Snapper Grouper, and that was the golden tilefish longline permit thing, and we're going to need to figure out what the council's priority is with that and what you want us to do with that, and so let's start first with you all met John Hadley, our new Economist.

What John is going to do is he's going to take over largely the committees and APs and stuff that I worked with when I was the economist, but one of the things is that John has had some experience working with some allocation issues as well, and so he's going to be taking over working with dolphin wahoo, but, as a way to sort of bring him along a bit, what I'm going to get him to do is probably work with me for the rest of this calendar year on that Dolphin Wahoo 10/Snapper Grouper 44, that different allocation stuff.

I will probably be the lead on that, and I have that for me as a task coming up later, but I'm thinking that we could get John probably to start working on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 11, which is all those other dolphin wahoo actions that we talked about, that we separated out the other day, and get him started on that, probably after the December council meeting this year.

We will have a Dolphin Wahoo AP meeting this fall. I will walk through that process with John and get him kind of going in that, but I want him to get his feet wet working on a couple of amendments and things before he actually becomes the lead on something, and so I'm thinking probably by the first of the year he will be ready to start as the lead on an amendment.

With Kari, as you can see, she is pretty busy, and we also have two other amendments that are coming up under CMP, and we may have to look at this, to see how we're going to fit it in. The CMP Framework 5 Amendment that you're going to hear about, and I don't want to steal her thunder, but it happens to do with changing some permit regulations and allowing vessel owners who, after the commercial season is completed, to keep a recreational bag limit, and this is in the Gulf right now. Kari will talk to you about all of that and walk you through it. If you all decide that you want to complement that same kind of an action in the South Atlantic, then it's going to take a little more effort on Kari's part, as well as some other staff, to make that happen, but I'm just putting that out there.

CMP Amendment 29 is an amendment that applies only to the Gulf of Mexico and will not apply to the South Atlantic, and so probably that's not going to add much to Kari's workload at all, and so that would just be sort of thrown in on top of that, and she will be the one who will be bringing

that back and forth to you, to inform you on what's going on with that amendment and lead you - Because it's a joint amendment, you will have to vote on it, and she will be the one to walk you through, but that's really not going to take much of a work commitment for her.

You talked about, during Spiny Lobster, which is also a Kari species, doing a new spiny lobster amendment. Now, the thing is we don't know what the exact timing of that is going to be. It fits well for us to do it in 2017, given what Kari is currently working on, but we have to figure out what the Gulf wants to do and what their timing is to move ahead on this, and so there may need to be some negotiating there.

With Myra, we've got Snapper Grouper Amendment 37, which is hogfish, that we will be finishing up, and Amendment 41, which is mutton snapper. You can see those -- We think those timelines are going to hold for right now, but what I did is you basically, by having two visioning amendments, you have taken up for basically two years of Myra's time on one slot, and you can see, after Amendment 41 is completed, there are other things that Myra could be doing.

We just don't have that filled in yet, and so I just wanted to make sure you understand that if this is your desire, to get these visioning amendments out -- I think you all said that you wanted to do the recreational amendment first, followed by the commercial, and so I plopped those in there, and that will take you up through mid-2018 to get those two amendments probably done, assuming they follow the normal path of taking a year to do a regular amendment.

The next one, let's talk about Chip. CE-BA 3, to be renamed something else, and we're not quite sure what that's going to be yet, and we're not quite sure how much longer it's going to go. I think I was on the council when we started CE-BA 3, and that was five years ago. I am just saying, and so I'm not quite sure how long that one is going to go.

The thing that says Coral/Shrimp, that has to do with looking at allowable zones, and that involves not just corals and shrimp. It falls under those amendments, but it also affects golden crab as well, and so Chip is involved in that. He's also got this Amendment 43 for snapper grouper, which is the adaptive management for red snapper.

Now, I don't want you all to think that his other slot is going to be totally vacant, because one of the big things that Chip has got going on is he has got to figure out how we're going to be implementing the System Management Plan, and that takes into account not just the SMZs, but the monitoring of the MPAs, Oculina, and all that. That's going to take a significant portion of his time, because that's going to involve a lot of coordination and things like that, and so I'm thinking he's going to be moving more into more work on that. That hasn't really been completely fleshed out yet, which is why I haven't filled that in.

For me, I've got Dolphin Wahoo 10/Snapper Grouper 44. You can see there's some blanks in there, and so I can do other things, work with other people on amendments, as well as just general management and things like that, but I have worked on some snapper grouper things, and so I can move around as is needed.

Roger has got his hands full with the FEP 2, as we take that through and over time and ecosystem stuff. John has got the for-hire amendment, but we're not sure what other data stuff is going to be coming up specifically that John is going to need to be working on. The problem is that I filled all

this in this week without consulting any of the staff, and so some of this is probably coming as a little bit of a surprise to them, but I think that, next week, we'll start working with staff and figuring out who is going to be -- What else they're going to be doing and filling in some of those blanks, but what I tried to do is accommodate, as we were going along, the decisions that you were making, to give you an opportunity to see what potentially is possible and not possible.

I think, so far, everything that you have said this week that you want to do that we've been able to find a place for it. I think the only really bottleneck might be some of the decisions that you might be making about CMP, and so I could end up maybe having to jump in and help Kari with some of that, just depending on how things go and whether she will let me help her do some of that, but, anyway, so it depends on the further decisions you all make, but, so far, I think we're going to be able to accommodate everything that you have said that you would like to do in the near term.

The other issue though is that golden tilefish permits thing with longlines, and I hadn't talked with Jessica or Erica about what their specific timing and what they're thinking about how they would like that to proceed, but there is some flexibility there, if that's a priority.

DR. DUVAL: I just had one question under Myra. Maybe we could bump the commercial over under that slot, once Amendment 41 finishes up, so that that could start a little bit earlier. I just think, with having gone through the visioning process -- I mean I think the recreational amendment is probably a priority, given red snapper, but it seems like we want to try to be responsive, if we can, to some of that, and I would have to look at the list again, but it seems like there may not have been anything in there that required a full plan amendment at this time. I think I have to go back and look at it, but I know that there was the snapper grouper stamp that was in the recreational amendment.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Madam Chair, that's all perfectly fine. That basically means though that it's going to be mid-2017, basically a year from now, that you will be able to start Myra on yet something that we don't have at this point. Now, whether that would be working on a golden tilefish permit amendment, I don't know. That's just whatever you all want us to do.

DR. DUVAL: I think we're probably going to have to have a conversation about golden tilefish at the September council meeting. I've been talking to John about some requests to the SSC to go back and take another look at the projections that we got. I think there is some concern about the magnitude of the gap between the OFL and the ABC recommendations, and so we would like to check on that, because it is pretty substantial, and possibly look at the SSC to evaluate the risk of phasing in any necessary reductions in the golden tilefish ACL.

I think we should probably have some time on the next committee agenda to talk about golden tilefish, and maybe that will give Jessica and Erica an opportunity to consider how this permit thing might be structured and then if there's any other action regarding the annual catch limit or management measures that the longline sector might want as a result of the assessment. We could maybe think about that.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Right, and I just want to make sure that everybody understands that this is your agenda, and so things can move based on what your priorities are. I was just trying to come up with a way to show you how we can try to fit things in, because, as the week was progressing along, I'm sure some folks were wondering how we could get staff to do all of this stuff, and, right

now, it's kind of looking like pretty much we're going to be able to accommodate the things that you've been asking for so far this week.

MR. PHILLIPS: Madam Chair, I apologize for not bending your ear a little earlier, but, over lunch, we had some discussion about assessments and amendments and species that needed some attention, like red grouper, and an idea got floated about let's maybe -- Because Jack Cox, and we've heard numerous comments for probably a couple of years, at least, about how red grouper are in trouble and we need to do something.

Considering the uncertainty we've had in amendments lately, I would like to have a little bit of a discussion of if we could get some SAFE Reports and start looking at what to do with red grouper and then possibly swap red grouper and white grunt around. We could go ahead and start working on some actions to help red grouper, if that's what the fishermen tell us, and I don't want to derail the train, but I'm considering -- I don't want to get anymore assessments that -- I feel more comfortable working off a SAFE Report, with landings and fishermen and catch per unit effort, and going ahead and doing something now. Thank you.

DR. DUVAL: I think when we have the SEDAR Committee Report that perhaps -- Because that's where we will look at all the slots, we can discuss that tomorrow, in terms of your suggestion for wanting to switch around red grouper and white grunt. I mean I don't have that in front of me right now, but that might be the time to bring it up and think about switching it around, but certainly SAFE Reports -- I mean if we want to try to get SAFE Reports and talk about doing something for red grouper, let's make sure to put it on the committee agenda for next time and find an appropriate vehicle to do something about that.

MR. PHILLIPS: I appreciate that, Madam Chair. I am just trying to figure out how to move forward without getting assessments and sending them back. The golden tile, for instance, is an update. We don't think the catch per unit effort changed and we don't think the landings changed, but the ACL has changed a lot. The fishermen, recreational and commercial, they can't live like this. We need some stability, and we're not getting it, and we're going to have to do something different. As bad as I hate to say it, we need to change some things and change the way we look at things.

MR. WAUGH: Then, as I interpret that, you would want to see a SAFE Report, as much information as we could pull together, for red grouper at the September meeting, and you will look at that and determine whether you want to modify any of the catch level specifications or management measures.

MR. PHILLIPS: We could go ahead and start that. We don't have to wait on an assessment. We know, to a large degree, what we need to do and we can go ahead and start that now. When we get an assessment, hopefully the uncertainty levels that we keep hearing about will be lower. Then if we need to change it again two years down the road or whatever, but we can go ahead and work on a problem that we've heard from fishermen for years now.

DR. DUVAL: I'm fine with that. I mean that sounds good. Any other thoughts around the table about getting a SAFE Report for red grouper at the next -- Or as much as possible?

MR. COX: I just think -- I don't know if I'm on the committee.

DR. DUVAL: You're not.

MR. COX: Okay, but thank you, Charlie, for bringing that up.

DR. DUVAL: I didn't say you couldn't talk, but I just said you weren't on the committee.

MR. COX: I am feeling the love on almost my last day here, but a SAFE Report would be very - Something about this red grouper, and we need to move as fast as we can on it.

DR. DUVAL: All right.

DR. CHEUVRONT: Madam Chair, I don't think you need a motion or anything for this. I think this is just informing you all on where we think we're headed with things. It's all fluid and it can be changed. I think the take-home message, I think today, is that pretty much, so far, everything you have asked us to do this week, I think we're going to be able to accommodate, but I just wanted to make sure that we had them in the right priority order, because some things are going to have to wait a little bit, six months or so, before we can get started on it, but we've been able to get things fit in, and so I'm hoping that everybody is okay with the way we have it set up.

DR. DUVAL: Just one more question for you, Brian. Thank you for trying to shovel everything into the slots, but is there a possibility that council members could get an updated version of this by email after you've had a chance to figure it out more?

DR. CHEUVRONT: Sure. What's going to happen is -- Typically, after each of the council meetings, we will go through and we update what we're now calling the Operations Agreement, which has everything that's actively going on and what we foresee into the future, but we also update this and make sure it's okay, and that all gets sent out to everybody once -- It will take us a week or two to get that together, but we will get that to you.

DR. DUVAL: Thank you very much. The next item on the agenda is Standards and Procedures for Public Comments, and that's Attachment 5 in your briefing book.

MR. WAUGH: We pulled together what guidance we have now, and that's laid out in terms of our no action alternative there. We also looked at what other groups do, and that is included as Attachment 1. I don't intend to go through that, but that shows what everybody else is doing. We tried at this meeting, if you look on page 2, the new approach. We are not proposing any changes to the Scientific and Statistical Committee comment process or to our public comment on specific amendments.

Where we've run into issues are comments at the council meeting, and what we did was try, with the Chair's okay, a new procedure at this meeting where comments received by the close of business the Monday before the meeting were compiled and posted to the website. Any that we got before the briefing book, we included in the briefing book.

We asked people to use this online comment form, and then, as of the Monday of the council meeting, then people had to post via that comment form, and that was easily accessible to you all. We had some issues at the last meeting where we were receiving so many comments and trying to email those to you and you looking for them in your email. This gives one place, in a common

form, that you can find the public comments, and we think that was an easier way. This is an idea that we adapted from the Gulf Council, and so thanks to them for breaking ground on this.

What our hope would be is that you all would agree that this is how we would approach this in the future, and so that's outlined here for comments prior to and during the council meeting. I just added -- We would need some clarification that, as of the Monday before the meeting, we post them, but then asking people to use the comment form. It would be very helpful for us, and I think for you all, if we strongly encouraged people to use that comment form, because that makes it a lot easier for tracking for us, for you all seeing them, and for Mike to then pull in the administrative record.

Sort of the options here for written comments after that time is do you want people to bring written copies here and distribute them or Option b, do we want individuals sending in the comment to use the council meeting form and you access them the way you did at this meeting? I don't know how far you want to go with giving us guidance on this at this meeting, but that one piece at least would be a big help. If we could get some guidance on that now, it would be appreciated.

DR. DUVAL: How did folks feel about the Google Docs document? I think one big advantage it has is that not only do we see all the comments that the public is submitting, but other members of the public see all the comments that people are submitting, and so everything is accessible to everybody.

I know that, for me, it was a little bit easier to just download the file as an Excel file and move things around and shrink it down and sort comments by subject area or state or whatever address, and so I would love some input on how you thought this worked and then, as Gregg mentioned, Option a or Option b, ask folks to use the comment form for anyone sending written comments after the Monday before a council meeting or if you would prefer to ask individuals to distribute any written comments directly to council members. Bob, I might look to you. I know ASMFC -- I think we may have pulled some information from how ASMFC does this as well, but you all also have deadlines with regard to providing written public comment, and it looks like, after a certain time period, you all require folks to bring hard copies and is that --

MR. BEAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. We actually have sort of three layers of public comment. If it's three weeks or earlier prior to a meeting, we will put that on the main briefing materials. Between the three-week period and the Tuesday, close of business the Tuesday before our meeting week starts, we compile all of those and we put those in what we call the supplemental material and send those out as sort of a separate briefing book, almost.

Then anything after 5:00 P.M. the Tuesday night before a meeting week, we do not -- The staff doesn't distribute that. It's up to the individual commenters to either email that out to the commissioners or bring hard copies to the board, and it's really to get at exactly what everyone suffers through. It's a bunch of last-minute comments that come in, and they're kind of scattered, and it's hard for the council members or commissioners to wrestle with all those sort of random documents that come at them all at different times.

DR. DUVAL: How do folks like the Google Document?

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MR. BOYLES: I was going to suggest that I think it's really good. Everything is in one place. It's equally accessible. I think it's really the next step in transparency. I think it's a good thing for our accountability.

DR. DUVAL: I do, too. Again, I think it's much easier for me to be able to just know that I go to a particular link on the website and view everything, know that everybody else can view everything, and then also if -- I have said this before, but if I'm running the committee meeting, I am not looking at emails that are flooding into my inbox at the last minute. It is simply too difficult to run a committee meeting and try to do that and then have stakeholders express concern about whether or not you've seen their comments.

MR. HAYMANS: I'm not on your committee, and I may have missed this in the materials, but when does the clock restart? It's 124 comments in the current Excel sheet. When do you start the next Excel sheet?

MR. WAUGH: What we do is, as of noon on Thursday for this council meeting, that closes the administrative record. The idea there is you had your public comment last night. It gives people a little time, if they think about something else, to get it in by noon, but then we close that comment form, and, for this meeting, that's the close of the comment period. All those comments go into the administrative record for this meeting.

Any comments coming in after that, and if they ask us to distribute them, we will distribute them next week to council members, and we start accumulating comments for the next meeting. Let me mention too is that, if you have any questions about how this works, talk with Amber. Amber is the one who took the initiative and put this together, working and corresponding with the Gulf Council, and she can help you look at this, because it gives you a way, in that Excel spreadsheet, to order things by topic and so forth, and so it will be very helpful.

MR. HAYMANS: To look at comments that may come in next week or the week after next, I go to the September meeting materials, which will be open fairly quickly, and I hit the public comment button there? Is that how I access new comments?

MR. WAUGH: We hadn't planned to do it like that, because, typically, what we do is, in between council meetings -- Amber, if you want to come up and offer any comments, feel free to, but, between council meetings, we generally distribute those comments to council members. Then, as we get in preparation for a council meeting, as we put our materials together for each committee, we then pull any pertinent public comments and include them in the briefing material and then we will start the clock again, if you will, and turn that comment form on for the next council meeting.

MR. HAYMANS: Okay. That's fine. I had just envisioned this as a log of meeting-to-meeting comments, but if you're going to mail out or email out comments as we've doing it, that's fine too.

MS. VONHARTEN: The other thing we need to think about too is we're going to have public hearings in between this meeting and September, and we don't want to confuse people, because if we use the same approach for our public hearing written comments, then it may not be a good idea to automatically open up a comment form for September right away, and so maybe if we could set some kind of date that seems appropriate, that would be good.

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DR. DUVAL: What do you mean set a date for -- Is it a date for when the Google Docs online comment form would open prior to each council meeting?

MS. VONHARTEN: Yes.

DR. DUVAL: I think the way you all set it up this time worked well, and so that opened on the 6th, right, the Monday before the council meeting, or no?

MS. VONHARTEN: I think we opened it before then, because it definitely went on the website before the briefing book. Maybe it went online when the briefing book went live, which was on the 27th of May.

DR. DUVAL: That makes sense to me. The day that the briefing book is posted is also the day that you would want to open up and post the Google Doc and allow for comments that way. Are there any more specific comments? I would like to maybe -- Do you want a motion from the committee, Gregg, or is just direction from the committee with regard to which of these two options, which it sounds like everyone is in favor of Option b.

MR. WAUGH: I think direction is fine.

DR. DUVAL: Okay. Is there anyone around the table who feels differently than Option b, with the understanding that when the briefing book materials are posted that the Google Doc will go live for that council meeting and that the public record will close, I guess, noon on Thursday of each council meeting week? Okay. Great. Thank you.

MS. VONHARTEN: I just want to let you know that I have posted a PDF version of the final comments on the briefing book page. Since the form is closed, I don't want to keep the Excel spreadsheet up, and so I replaced that on the website in the briefing book page.

DR. DUVAL: Thank you very much. We are going to recess the Executive Finance Committee. Hopefully we will pick that back up later on, but we are actually going to move into the Mackerel Committee, and we will give Chairman Hartig and Kari a chance to get up here and get going.

(Whereupon, the meeting was recessed on June 16, 2016.)

Certified By:	Date:	
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Transcribed By: Amanda Thomas July 26, 2016

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Chris Conklin
Roy Crabtree
Doug Haymans
Jessica McCawley
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HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

Anna Beckwith, Chair

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(Continued)

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Timestamp	Full Name	Email	Mailing Address (If your	How do you participate in fisheries in the South Atlantic? (Check all that apply)
6/16/2016 9:09:21	Dick Brame	dbrame55@gmail.com	on file	Private Recreational Angler, Non- Governmental Organization
6/16/2016 9:11:30	Trip Aukeman	taukeman@ccaflorida.org	on file	Private Recreational Angler
6/16/2016 9:30:39	David Bush	davidbush@ncfish.org	on file	NCFA
6/16/2016 10:22:10	Frank Helies	fchelies@att.net	on file	Non-Governmental Organization
6/16/2016 10:44:29	John Conley	thcjohn100@yahoo.com	on file	Commercial Fisherman
6/16/2016 11:09:41	Leda Dunmire	Idunmire@pewtrusts.org	on file	Non-Governmental Organization
6/16/2016 12:59:27	Elizabeth Joln	elizabethjolin@bellsouth.net	on file	Charter/Headboat/For- hire
6/16/2016 13:00:23	Dean Foster	dfoster@pewtrusts.org	on file	Non-Governmental Organization
6/16/2016 14:05:01	William F. Coley	wmcoley1@gmail.com	on file	Private Recreational Angler

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