

Committee Consolidation Proposal

March 2020

In late January 2020 the Council Chair and Vice-Chair met with the Council Senior Staff (Executive Director, Administrative Office, Deputy Director for Management, and Deputy Director for Science) to discuss staff and Council operations, communication, and expectations. An overarching theme of the meeting was finding ways to increase efficiency in Council operations.

One of the topics discussed was potential consolidation of Council Committees, beginning with a review of the committee structure of other Councils. While there is considerable variation in how Councils approach committees, it was apparent that West Coast Councils tended to have fewer Committees than East Coast Councils, and the 20 committees now convened by the SAFMC are more than any other Council. The SAFMC had the highest % of non-FMP related committees (65%). Additionally, SAFMC has 5 committees related to administrative activities, while most Councils handle such business through a single committee.

Managing the large number of Council committee's creates challenges for both Council Members and Staff. Members are required to serve on committees and fill Chair and Vice-Chair roles. Staff has to prepare a full suite of meeting documents and infrastructure – agenda, overview, attachments, committee reports, minutes, briefing book folders – for each individual committee that meets during a Council meeting week, and keep track of the membership for each committee on the website and directory. In one instance, 8 years passed between committee meetings and minutes approval.

To simplify Council operations and address some of these issues, the consolidation plan described below was developed and is proposed for Council consideration. Changes in committee structure could take place beginning with the June 2020 meeting if the Council supports the proposal. Committee preferences and membership are typically updated in September, so making changes before then could make that process considerably easier.

Proposed Consolidation Plan

- 1) Combine the 3 administrative committees into a single Executive Committee
 - Consolidates Personnel, SOPPS, and Executive Finance Committees
 - Justification
 - significant overlap in responsibilities
 - occasional confusion over who does what
- 2) Eliminate the Data, HMS, Aquaculture, and Protected Resources Committees
 - Address related business through Full Council
 - Justification
 - these committees rarely meet
- 3) Eliminate the SSC and AP Selection Committees
 - Address selection and appointments through Full Council, closed session

- Retain dedicated staff assignments for these activities
- Appoint Council Members to serve as “Liaisons” for these activities and assist the chair in the appointment discussions
 - SSC Liaison will handle SSC and SEDAR AP appointments
 - The SEDAR Committee will continue to make appointments to specific SEDAR workshops.
 - AP Selection Liaison will handle AP appointments (and be filled initially by the current AP Selection Committee Chair)
- Justification
 - Reduces the need for multiple closed sessions during a meeting week
 - Gives all members equal voice in appointment decisions

4) New Committee Structure Summary

- 7 FMP committees
- 5 Other committees
 - Executive Finance
 - Law Enforcement
 - SEDAR
 - Information & Education
 - Citizen Science