



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405
Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

Charlie Phillips, Chair | Captain Mark Brown, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA

Executive Finance Committee

Bahia Mar Doubletree by Hilton
801 Seabreeze Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Thursday, June 14, 2018 – 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Charlie Phillips

Approval of March 2018 Committee minutes – Charlie Phillips

1. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization (*Attachments 1a – 1e*)
 - a. Overview – Gregg Waugh
 - b. Committee Action: Review and provide guidance to staff – Charlie Phillips – **ACTION**
2. Draft CY 2018 Budget (*Attachments 2a – 2d*)
 - a. Overview – Gregg Waugh/Mike Collins
 - b. Committee Action: Review and provide guidance to staff – Charlie Phillips – **ACTION**
3. Council Follow-up and Priorities (*Attachments 3a and 3b*)
 - a. Overview – Dr. Brian Chevront
 - b. Committee Action: Review and provide guidance to staff – Charlie Phillips – **ACTION**
4. Regulatory Reform (*Attachments 4a and 4b*)
 - a. Overview – Dr. Brian Chevront
 - b. Committee Action: Review and provide guidance to staff – Charlie Phillips – **ACTION**
5. Atlantic Coast-Wide Group Discussions (*Attachments 5a and 5b*)
 - a. Overview – Gregg Waugh
 - b. Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Charlie Phillips – **ACTION**
6. South Atlantic Council Aquaculture FMP (*Attachment 6*)
 - a. Overview – Gregg Waugh
 - b. Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Charlie Phillips – **ACTION**

7. Report from CCC May 22-24, 2018 Meeting (*Attachment 7; available at meeting*)
 - a. Overview – Charlie Phillips/Mark Brown/Gregg Waugh
 - b. Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Charlie Phillips – **ACTION**

Other Business – Charlie Phillips

Adjourn – Charlie Phillips

Committee Members

Charlie Phillips, Chair
Chester Brewer
Jessica McCawley

Mark Brown, Vice Chair
Doug Haymans

Attachments

Attachment 1a: CCC Working Paper (November 2017)

Attachment 1b: Status of Amendments Under Review (excel)

Attachment 1c: SAFMC Letter to Chris Oliver on Reauthorization

Attachment 1d: SAFMC Letter to Senator Graham on Reauthorization

Attachment 1e: SAFMC Letter to Senator Scott on Reauthorization

Attachment 2a: Draft CY 2018 Budget – General Operations

Attachment 2b: Draft CY 2018 Budget – SEDAR

Attachment 2c: Council Activity Schedule

Attachment 2d: SEDAR Activity Schedule

Attachment 3a: Council Follow-Up

Attachment 3b: Council Priorities (excel)

Attachment 4a: SAFMC Letter on Regulatory Reform

Attachment 4b: Draft Recommendations – Regulations to be removed/modified

Attachment 5a: NRCC Final Report

Attachment 5b: NRCC Fall 2017 Summary-Final

Attachment 6: SAFMC Letter Requesting Funding to Prepare Aquaculture FMP

Attachment 7: CCC May 22-24, 2018 Meeting Report (**available at meeting**)

Staff: Gregg Waugh/Mike Collins

OVERVIEW

Executive Finance Committee

The Committee will approve minutes from the March 2018 meeting and the agenda.

I. MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

A number of hearings have been held and that portion of the reauthorization process is complete; testimony from Council-related folks is available from the U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils Website (<http://www.fisherycouncils.org>). Should the South Atlantic Council be asked to provide input, we will use the regional perspectives and consensus positions in the CCC Working Paper as the basis of our comments. The SAFMC has commented to Chris Oliver (**Attachment 1c**). Senators Graham and Scott asked for our comments and the letters are included as **Attachments 1d & 1e**. The CCC was asked to send the working paper to the Secretary of Commerce and this was done (**Attachment 1a** and letter available at link above).

1. Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) Working Paper – (Attachments 1a and 1b)

Description: The Legislative Workgroup has completed revisions to the working paper and the CCC has approved the latest version dated November 14, 2017 (**Attachment 1a**). This document was posted to the U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils Website (<http://www.fisherycouncils.org>) after it was sent to the Secretary of Commerce.

Major items are as follows:

- A. **Introduction** (pages 5-12) – this section includes the consensus positions for all topics.
- B. **Topic 1 (Stock Rebuilding)** (pages 13-18)
- C. **Topic 2 (Ending Overfishing)** (pages 19-20)
- D. **Topic 3 (Annual Catch Limit Requirements and Exceptions)** (pages 21-25)
- E. **Topic 4 (Resources Available for Additional Mandates)** (pages 26-27)
- F. **Topic 5 (Transparency Requirements)** (pages 28-30)
- G. **Topic 6 (Climate Change & Regional Action Plans for Climate Science)** (pages 31-34)
- H. **Topic 7 (Forage Fish)** (pages 35-37)
- I. **Topic 8 (Catch Share Programs)** (pages 38-40)
- J. **Topic 9 (NEPA)** (pages 41-43)
- K. **Topic 10 (Other Federal Statutes)** (pages 44-46)
- L. **Topic 11 (Recreational Data)** (pages 47-51)
- M. **Topic 12 (Commercial Data)** (pages 52-55)
- N. **Topic 13 (Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Authority)** (pages 56-58)
- O. **Topic 14 (Data to be Used in Stock Assessments)** (pages 59-61)
- P. **Topic 15 (Deeming/Transmittal Process)** (pages 62-67) – the Council works with the SERO and NOAA GC to have each document reviewed for completeness prior to sending the document for formal review. The Council Chair reviews and signs off on the amendment document and the codified text before they are sent for formal review. The timing for Council amendments currently under review is shown in **Attachment 1b**.
- Q. **Resources & Documents** (pages 68-70)

The CCC intends to continue using the working paper as a source document when the CCC is responding to a request for comments. The lead Council will draft a response for review by the other Councils. The working paper can also be attached to a comment letter to provide more

details. The regional perspectives and examples are an excellent way to describe how requirements could affect Councils differentially. New topics will be added as they are identified; the CCC report will include suggested wording for 4 new topics. The working paper will be updated as needed and will be used to inform individuals new to the Council process. Individual Councils are responsible for their regional perspective and should provide updates to the lead Council in any year. The lead Council will be responsible for updating the Working Paper. Lead Councils by year are NPFMC (2018), **SAFMC (2019)**, WPFMC (2020), MAFMC (2021), and GMFMC (2022).

Status of Actions: Topics 1 through 15 are complete. The South Atlantic Council's input has been added. Draft wording for four new topics has been developed.

Required Committee Action: the committee and Council should review the new draft wording for the South Atlantic Council's regional input and for the consensus statements.

II. CY 2018 Draft Budget and Status

Description: Gregg Waugh and Mike Collins will review the Draft CY 2018 Budget/Status for Council and SEDAR activities (**Attachments 2a & 2b**). The draft Council and SEDAR budgets are based on the activity schedules (**Attachments 2c & 2d**).

Cost savings items approved by the Council in December 2017, and incorporated into the draft 2018 budget, are:

1. Council Member Travel Policy

- A. Advisory Panel Meetings – Committee Chair and Vice-Chair approved to attend; if one will not attend, open to another Council member. Two Council members attending.
- B. SSC Meetings – SSC Liaison and Council representative on any SEDAR Assessments the SSC is reviewing are authorized to attend; if one will not attend, open to another Council member. Two 2 Council members attending (usually).
- C. Council Chair & Vice-Chair – authorized to attend any AP & SSC meetings given they have to represent the Council on CCC and other events/meetings.
- D. Total Council member attendance at any meeting should not normally exceed 4 individuals.

2. Loosen AP policy on voting to allow voting via webinar and conduct some AP meetings via webinar.

3. Reduce travel to “Other Meetings” by 10%.

4. Scoping and Public Hearings – use webinars and listening stations.

5. Reduce State Liaison Grants by 10%.

6. Reduce Council Staff Retirement Match by 10%.

Council staff continues to search for ways to reduce costs (e.g., life, dental, vision, and health insurance) and by switching to a new provider for travel arrangements (American Express).

Status of Action: We have been told that our allocation of 2018 funding will be level from 2017 and that approximately \$100,000 in additional funding will be provided for our regulatory reform activities. The Council is being asked to provide guidance on the level of activities, add/remove activities as needed, and provide any other guidance. We will use the draft CY 2018 budget as a guide until we get our final budgeted amount for 2018 from NMFS.

Required Committee Action: discuss and provide guidance on the draft CY 2018 activities and budgets. Approve the draft CY 2018 Council and SEDAR budgets if sufficient information is available.

III. COUNCIL FOLLOW-UP AND PRIORITIES

Description: Dr. Brian Chevront, Deputy Director for Management, will give the committee an overview of the Council Follow-Up (**Attachment 3a**) and the Council Priorities (**Attachment 3b**) as approved at the December 2017 meeting. The Follow-Up contains the detailed steps for each active amendment and amendments under formal review. This allows any Council member to see where each amendment is in the process. The Follow-Up is updated after each Council meeting after review and input from the SERO and Council staff. In addition, draft agendas are included for the next two upcoming Council meetings. This allows Council members to see what is on the agenda and make any suggestions to the Chair and staff. New MRIP numbers will be available later this year and updated assessments, with the new MRIP data, for vermilion snapper, black sea bass, blueline tilefish, and red grouper will be presented to the SSC in October 2018 and available for the Council at their December 2018 meeting (assuming revised MRIP numbers and calibrations are available July 2, 2018 as expected). These four species will give the Council the opportunity to consider allocations based on the new MRIP numbers and updated stock assessments. The Council would be able to begin working on this topic in December and so some guidance on how this fits into our timing and our workload is needed.

Status of Follow-up & Priorities: The Committee/Council reviewed this material at the March 2018 meeting and made changes to the Council Priorities.

Required Committee Action: discuss, modify/provide guidance, and approve the revised priorities.

IV. REGULATORY REFORM

Description: NMFS has requested the Councils identify a process to review/evaluate existing regulations by the end of December 2017 with the goal of identifying regulations to be removed, thereby reducing the regulatory burden on the public. Then each Council is to conduct the review/evaluation and provide recommendations on rules to be removed by the end of June 2018. The South Atlantic Council approved the following approach and timing at their December 2017 meeting and a letter was sent on December 20, 2017 to Chris Oliver (**Attachment 4a**):

- Continue to request public comments at the March and June 2018 Council meetings
- Each technical staff review the regulations for their FMPs – January/February 2018
- Coordinate with the SERO on potential regulations to remove – February 2018
- Bring draft list to Executive Finance Committee in March 2018
- Public Input during public comment session at March 5-9, 2018 Council meeting
- Council reviews and provides input at March 2018 meeting
- Have Advisory Panels (Species and Law Enforcement APs) and SSC/SEP review between March and June 2018 Council meetings; mail to APs not meeting in person
- Coordinate with SERO and NOAA GC between March and June 2018 Council meetings
- Bring revised list to Executive Finance Committee in June 2018
- Council reviews and approves list of regulations to be removed at June 11-15, 2018 meeting

- Council sends list of regulations to be removed to NMFS by June 22, 2018

Dr. Brian Chevront, Deputy Director for Management, will review the final recommendations on regulatory reform and regulations that should be reviewed for potential modification (**Attachment 4b**).

Status of Action: The Council sent a letter to Chris Oliver on December 20, 2017. The Council is scheduled to review the list of draft regulations, provide guidance, and give final approval at the June 2018 meeting.

Required Committee Action: discuss and provide guidance on list of regulations to remove. Provide guidance on regulations to be modified.

V. ATLANTIC COAST-WIDE GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Description: This issue was discussed at the Fall NRCC meeting (**Attachments 5a/5b**). Based on discussions among the 3 Councils, it was agreed that a group comprised of each Council's Chair, Vice-Chair, and Executive Director would meet periodically to coordinate on an approach to address stocks as they move northwards. This group will meet via phone, webinar, and in conjunction with Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meetings. The first such meeting was held during the February 2018 CCC meeting, and additional discussions are planned for the May 2018 CCC meeting. This Council group would also meet periodically with the Commission to coordinate State action where appropriate.

Status of Action: The Council group met during the February 2018 CCC meeting and plans to discuss this at the May 2018 CCC meeting.

Required Committee Action: discuss and provide guidance.

VI. SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL AQUACULTURE FMP

Description: The Council asked NMFS to provide funding (\$442,004 over 3 years; **Attachment 6**). A response is expected at the May 2018 CCC meeting.

Status of Action: Discussions planned with NMFS during the May 2018 CCC meeting.

Required Committee Action: discuss and provide guidance.

VII. REPORT FROM MAY 22-24, 2018 CCC MEETING

Description: Charlie Phillips (Chair), Mark Brown (Vice-Chair), and Gregg Waugh (Executive Director) will give an overview of major items from the CCC meeting (**Attachment 7**; available at meeting). Some of the information will be discussed under other topics above (e.g., budget).

Status of Action: The CCC meets May 22-24, 2018; a report will be available at the Council meeting.

Required Committee Action: discuss and provide guidance.

Other Business