



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

AGENDA

Executive Finance Committee

DoubleTree by Hilton Atlantic
Beach Oceanfront
Atlantic Beach, NC

Thursday, December 8, 2017 – 3:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Charlie Phillips

Approval of September 2017 Committee minutes – Charlie Phillips

1. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization (*Attachments 1a – 1j*)
 - a. Overview – Gregg Waugh
 - b. Committee Action: Review and provide guidance to staff – Charlie Phillips
2. Budget Status and Outlook (*Attachment 2a and 2b*)
 - a. Overview of Status and Options to Reduce Costs – Gregg Waugh/Mike Collins
 - b. Committee Action: Discuss and approved – Charlie Phillips
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
4. Council Meeting Materials
 - a. Overview – Gregg Waugh/Cameron Rhodes/Dr. Brian Chevront
 - b. Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Charlie Phillips

Other Business – Charlie Phillips

Adjourn – Charlie Phillips

Committee Members

Charlie Phillips, Chair
Chester Brewer
Jessica McCawley

Mark Brown, Vice Chair
Michelle Duval

Attachments

Attachment 1a: CCC Working Paper (November 2017)

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

Attachment 1c: HR 200 Text

Attachment 1d: HR 200 Section-by-Section GMFMC Impacts

Attachment 1e: HR 2023 Text

Attachment 1f: HR 2023 Section-by-Section GMFMC Impacts

Attachment 1g: S. 1520 Text

Attachment 1h: Comparison of Bills with Committee Comments (**available at meeting**)

Attachment 1i: HR 3588 Text

Attachment 1j: S 1686 Text

Attachment 2a: CY 2017 Approved Budget and Status

Attachment 2b: Options to Reduce Costs (**available at meeting**)

Attachment 3a: Council Follow-Up

Attachment 3b: Council Priorities (excel)

Staff: Gregg Waugh/Mike Collins

OVERVIEW

Executive Finance Committee

The Committee will approve minutes from the September 2017 webinar meeting and agenda.

I. **MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT REAUTHORIZATION**

A number of hearings have been held and that portion of the reauthorization process is likely 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 CCC was asked to send the working paper to the Secretary of Commerce and that is being done.

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 will be posted to the U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils Website (<http://www.fisherycouncils.org>) after it is sent to the Secretary of Commerce. The Mid-Atlantic Council, particularly Chris and Mary, deserve a huge thank you for their help in developing this information, editing/formatting, and for putting the materials on the Councils Website.

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 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 NEFMC (2017), 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. Any future SAFMC suggestions will be added as needed.

Required Committee Action: none until we are requested to comment or new items are identified.

2. MSA BILLS – (*Attachments 1c-1j*)

Description: Three major MSA bills have been introduced: (1) Representative Young (R-Alaska) introduced HR 200 (Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act) on January 3, 2017 and it was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources (**Attachments 1c and 1d**); (2) Representative Graves (R-Louisiana) introduced HR 2023 (The Modern Fishing Act of 2017) on April 6, 2017 and it was referred to the House Natural Resources Committee (**Attachments 1e and 1f**); and (3) Senator Wicker (R-Mississippi) introduced S 1520 (the “Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017”) on July 10, 2017; it was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (**Attachment 1g**). Dave Whaley, Council Consultant, prepared a comparison of the two House bills, and Council staff used that document to add the provisions of S1520 and SAFMC input (**Attachment 1h; available at meeting**). S 1520 is a companion bill to HR 2023 and so is very similar in content with several differences. All items in HR 2023 and S 1520 are compared with HR 200; however, there are additional items that are only in HR 200. Two Gulf of Mexico-specific red snapper bills were recently introduced (**Attachments 1i-1j**): HR 3588 was introduced on July 28, 2017 by Representative Graves (R-LA) and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. S 1686 was introduced on August 1, 2017 by Senator Cassidy, MD (R-LA), read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. HR 3588 and S 1686 are companion bills.

Status of Bills: The South Atlantic Council has not formally been asked to provide written comments on these bills. The Councils are prohibited from lobbying; however, if requested, the Councils can provide input on how such a bill would affect the way the Councils' do their job. If requested, a response will be developed from the CCC Working Paper and from any guidance provided by the Committee/Council. The NEFMC, as lead Council this year, would prepare a CCC response for review and input by the other Councils.

Required Committee Action: review, discuss, and develop recommendations, as appropriate, on items in the HR 200, HR 2023, and S 1520 using **Attachment 1h**; the Council can also add items they feel should be addressed. The Committee can comment on the Gulf bills, although you may want to leave that to the Gulf Council.

II. CY 2017 Approved Budget and Status

Description: Mike Collins, Administrative Officer, will give the committee an overview of the status of the CY 2017 Approved Budget (**Attachment 2a**). Gregg Waugh and Mike Collins will review options for cost savings (**Attachment 2b; available at meeting**). Topics include:

1. Draft 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. Total of 2 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. Total of 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.

This could save us \$1,500 - \$4,200 per AP meeting based on travel to the SG AP and \$1,200 - \$3,000 per SSC meeting based on SSC travel.

2. **Size of Advisory Panels and SSC** – consider reductions in size where possible to reduce costs.

3. **Loosen AP policy on voting** to allow voting via webinar to reduce meeting costs.

Status of Action: The Council approved a CY 2017 Budget at the June 2017 meeting. The Committee will receive a status report. The Committee will also discuss ways to reduce costs during 2018 (**Attachment 2b; available at meeting**).

Required Committee Action: discuss, consider approving travel policy, and provide guidance on actions to reduce costs.

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 September 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.

Status of Follow-up & Priorities: The Committee/Council reviewed this material at the September 2017 meeting and made changes to the Council Priorities.

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

IV. COUNCIL MEETING MATERIALS

Description: The Committee reviewed progress to date and provided some further guidance at the September 2017 meeting about how to handle late materials, formatting the decision document, and some improvements to the website.

Status of Action: Council staff implemented changes.

Required Committee Action: discuss and provide guidance.

Other Business