



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA

Executive Finance Committee

Marriott Hutchinson Island, 555 NE Ocean Blvd.
Stuart, FL

Monday, June 10, 2019 – 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 NOON (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Jessica McCawley

Approval of February 2019 Webinar Committee minutes – Jessica McCawley

1. Report from May 2019 CCC Meeting (*Attachment 1*)
 - a. Overview – Gregg Waugh/Jessica McCawley/Mel Bell
 - b. Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Jessica McCawley – **ACTION**
2. Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization & Modern Fisheries Act (*Attachments 2a-c*)
 - a. Overview – Gregg Waugh
 - b. Modern Fisheries Act Presentation – NMFS HQ
 - c. Committee Action: Review and provide guidance to staff – Jessica McCawley – **ACTION**
3. CCC Working Paper (*Attachments 3a-b*)
 - a. Overview – Gregg Waugh
 - b. Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Jessica McCawley – **ACTION**
4. Draft Calendar Year (CY) January-December 2019 Operational Budget (*Attachments 4a-c*)
 - a. Overview – Gregg Waugh/Kelly Klasnick
 - b. Committee Action: Review and approve CY 2019 operational budget – Jessica McCawley – **ACTION**

Other Business – Jessica McCawley

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 – 3:45 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)

5. Ranking of Amendments for work schedule (*Attachments 5a-c*)
 - a. Overview – Dr. Brian Chevront
 - b. Committee Action: Discuss and provide guidance to staff – Jessica McCawley

Adjourn – Jessica McCawley

Committee Members

Jessica McCawley, Chair
Chester Brewer
Steve Poland

Mel Bell, Vice Chair
Doug Haymans

Attachments

Attachment 1: Report from May 2019 CCC Meetings (**available by meeting**)

Attachment 2a: Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018

Attachment 2b: Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act Presentation

Attachment 2c: Senate Staff Working Draft

Attachment 3a: CCC Working Paper (May 6, 2019)

Attachment 3b: Forage Fish Bill

Attachment 4a: Draft 2019 CY (January-December) Operational Budget

Attachment 4b: General Activity Schedule (2019)

Attachment 4c: SEDAR Activity Schedule (2019)

Attachment 5a: Council Amendment Activities June 2019 (Excel)

Attachment 5b: SAFMC Amendments Summary June 2019

Attachment 5c: Council Follow-Up 050919

Staff: Gregg Waugh/Kelly Klasnick

OVERVIEW

Executive Finance Committee

The Committee will approve minutes from the March 2019 meeting and the agenda.

I. REPORT FROM MAY 2019 CCC MEETING

Description: The May 14-16, 2019 CCC meeting was held in Charleston, SC. Meeting materials are available at: <http://www.fisherycouncils.org/ccc-meetings/may-2019>

The South Atlantic Council is host Council for 2019 and the next meeting will be November 5-7, 2019 in Washington, DC. A meeting report is being drafted and will be distributed prior to the June Council meeting.

Status of Actions: The 2019 and 2020 dates, times, and location are set. There were a number of motions made at the May 2019 CCC meeting (see end of report) and a number of items for follow-up.

Required Committee Action: review the report and provide guidance as needed.

II. MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Description: Testimony from Councils and other background information 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. Comments thus far are available from the website above.

The Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018 (Modern Fish Act) (**Attachment 2a**), which aims to provide more stability and access to recreational anglers, was signed into law by the President on December 31, 2018. Dr. Jack McGovern, NMFS SERO, will give an overview of the new act (**Attachment 2b**). The Act includes improving recreational data collection (through avenues such as smart phone apps), allowing additional management tools that are more appropriate for recreational fishing, and requiring studies of allocations in the South Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico mixed-use fisheries and limited access programs in mixed-use fisheries for all Councils except the Pacific and North Pacific Councils. GAO representatives will be attending the June 2019 Council meeting to talk with Council members and members of the public. Here is the material they asked us to include:

“The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)—an independent, nonpartisan agency that works for Congress—is conducting a study on allocation reviews for mixed-use fisheries (those with a combination of commercial, recreational, or charter fishing sectors) in federal waters of the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. GAO staff will be in attendance at the June 2019 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting and would like to meet with fishery stakeholders to discuss mixed-use fisheries allocations. GAO will post a sign-up sheet in the area outside the Council meeting space on the morning of Monday, June 10th for those interested in scheduling a meeting time with GAO. GAO will be available for meetings Monday, June 10th through Wednesday, June 13th, generally from 8:30 am to 6 pm, with the exception of the Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization & Modern Fisheries Act discussion and the Council’s Public

Comment session. Information from stakeholders is a critical part of this study, and GAO staff hope to speak to as many interested stakeholders as possible.”

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council began work on management activities for the recreational fishery that align with items outlined in the in the Modern Fish Act as it was being developed. These include:

- **MyFishCount** – a recreational reporting website and application for smart phones designed to allow anglers to voluntarily report their fishing activity, including numbers of fish harvested, numbers released, depth fished, and other information helpful for management. The pilot project, developed in partnership with the Angler Action Foundation and Elemental Methods, is funded through NOAA Fisheries and has over 800 users to date.
- **For-Hire (headboat & charter vessel) Electronic Reporting** – federally-permitted headboat captains are currently required to report electronically; expected to begin in 2019, federally permitted charter captains in the South Atlantic region will be required to report trip-level data for all trips and all species electronically on a weekly basis, improving the timeliness and accuracy of data used for fisheries management.
- **Collaboration** – In 2018, the Council collaborated with and participated in a Recreational Fishing Workshop with the American Sportfishing Association, Coastal Conservation Association, and Yamaha Marine during the October Council meeting. The workshop is part of a 3-phase project to explore approaches for innovative management of the private recreational sector of the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper fishery. Results from the workshop and additional stakeholder meetings will be presented to the Council during its March 2019 meeting on Jekyll Island, Georgia. The Council will consider the results and discuss how to develop a new approach for managing the recreational fishery that aligns with items identified in the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act.

The new Congress will be working on new bills to reauthorize the MSA. Despite the changes on congressional committee, the Council are encouraged to develop wording to respond to items in the Senate Staff draft document. The Council will review the Senate Staff Working Draft (**Attachment 2c**). Council staff are working with the Council Chair to prepare a list of draft comment letter for review at the June meeting (available at the meeting).

Status of Actions: The Council may be asked to provide comments on other bills to reauthorize the MSA. Should that happen, Council staff will develop comments based on the CCC Working Paper and any other Council guidance.

Required Committee Action: the committee and Council should review the Senate Staff Draft Wording and the draft comment letter (available at the meeting), provide guidance, and approve the comment letter.

III. CCC WORKING PAPER

1. Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) Working Paper

Description: The Legislative Working Group completed revisions to the working paper and the CCC approved the new wording for 3 topics at the May 2019 meeting. The version from the recent CCC meeting (**Attachment 3**) is included; the new wording is shown in the May

2019 CCC Meeting Report. This document is also available from the U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils Website (<http://www.fisherycouncils.org>) and as it is updated, the latest version will be posted.

Major items are as follows:

- A. **Introduction** (pages 6-13) – this section includes the consensus positions for all topics.
- B. **Topic 1 (Stock Rebuilding)** (pages 14-19)
- C. **Topic 2 (Ending Overfishing)** (pages 20-21)
- D. **Topic 3 (Annual Catch Limit Requirements and Exceptions)** (pages 22-26)
- E. **Topic 4 (Resources Available for Additional Mandates)** (pages 27-28)
- F. **Topic 5 (Transparency Requirements)** (pages 29-31)
- G. **Topic 6 (Climate Change & Regional Action Plans for Climate Science)** (pages 32-35)
- H. **Topic 7 (Forage Fish)** (pages 36-38)
- I. **Topic 8 (Catch Share Programs)** (pages 39-41)
- J. **Topic 9 (NEPA)** (pages 42-44)
- K. **Topic 10 (Other Federal Statutes)** (pages 45-47)
- L. **Topic 11 (Recreational Data)** (pages 48-52)
- M. **Topic 12 (Commercial Data)** (pages 53-56)
- N. **Topic 13 (Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Authority)** (pages 57-59)
- O. **Topic 14 (Data to be Used in Stock Assessments)** (pages 60-63)
- P. **Topic 15 (Deeming/Transmittal Process)** (pages 64-69) – 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.
- Q. **Topic 16 (Cooperative Research)** (pages 70-71)
- R. **Topic 17 (Cooperative Data Collection)** (pages 72-73)
- S. **Topic 18 (Mixed-Use Fisheries LAPP Moratorium)** (pages 74-75)
- T. **Topic 19 (Aquaculture)** (pages 76-80)
- U. **Resources & Documents** (pages 81-83)

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 **SAFMC (2019)**, **WPFMC (2020)**, **MAFMC (2021)**, and **GMFMC (2022)**.

Status of Actions: The committee and Council should review the regional perspective language and offer any modifications. The Committee and Council reviewed this material in October and provided some guidance to staff; all suggestions have been incorporated into the latest version.

Required Committee Action: the committee and Council should review wording for the South Atlantic Council's regional input and consider providing guidance to staff on any suggested changes/updates.

IV. Draft 2019 CY (January – December) Operational Budget

Description: Kelly Klasnick and Gregg Waugh will review the draft Calendar Year (CY; January-December) 2019 Operational Budget and expenses through mid-May 2019 (**Attachment 4a**).

There are two major inputs: (1) fixed costs – staff, office-related, state liaison grants, and some contracts; and (2) variable costs – driven by the activity schedules. The activity schedules (**Attachments 4b & 4c**) have been drafted to reflect Council priorities and this determines Council compensation, meeting related expenses, and travel expenses. During the May 2019 CCC meeting, NMFS presented the Councils their funding levels for FY 2019. The South Atlantic Council will receive \$3.855 million in funding for FY 2019. The Operational Budget (**Attachment 4a**) is shown at \$3.9 million and we will track spending to ensure we stay on budget.

Status of Action: The final numbers for CY 2019 are .

Required Committee Action: review and approve the 2019 CY (January-December) Operational Budget.

V. COUNCIL FOLLOW-UP AND PRIORITIES

Description: Dr. Brian Chevront, Deputy Director for Management, will give the committee an overview of the Council Priorities spreadsheet (**Attachment 5a**) and the Amendments Summary (**Attachment 5b**) to be used for setting future Council and staff work priorities. The Council will review the Follow-Up document (**Attachment 5c**) as approved at the December 2018 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 March 2019 meeting and approved priorities.

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

Other Business