

**SUMMARY REPORT  
EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA  
DECEMBER 6, 2012**

The Executive Finance Committee met on December 6, 2012 in Wilmington, North Carolina. The minutes from the September 2012 Executive Finance Committee were approved. The Committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

**1. CY2012 Council budget expenditures**

Mr. Mahood briefed the committee on the Council's final expenditures for CY2012. He indicated that we are in very good shape for 2012 having expended only 74% of the budget to-date. We will have funds available to carry forward and have positioned ourselves where we will be able to weather future anticipated budget reductions. Conserving our funds is critical to the Council's future operations, as we brace for potential budget cuts of 13-19% in the last two years of our five-year grant.

**2. Draft CY2013 Council activities schedules**

Bob directed the committee members to Attachments 2 and 3, which include the draft CY2013 Council administrative and SEDAR activity schedules. He explained how these documents are used as the bases for developing our CY2013 budget. Bob outlined the procedure for developing the activity schedules and how the final numbers are generated. He also explained the role of the SEDAR Steering Committee in establishing the SEDAR activities schedule. The activity schedules fluctuate during the year as the Council addresses changing priorities. Chairman Cupka noted that Committee Chairmen should take a good look at the scheduled activities for their committees and contact staff if they have any questions.

**3. Draft CY2013 Council budget**

Bob directed members to the draft CY2013 administrative and SEDAR budgets found under Attachment 4. He explained how the budget was developed using fixed costs (rent, administrative costs, salaries, etc.) and the specific functions outlined in the activity schedules. He noted that we do not have a CY2013 funding level to-date. It is anticipated we receive this information at the February 2013 CCC meeting.

**4. Joint South Florida management issues and meeting schedule**

The committee was briefed on the status of the progress in establishing an ad hoc joint Committee to consider management of south Florida fisheries. The Committee has been formed consisting of our Executive Committee and five Gulf Council members, two FWC representatives and NMFS SERO staff. There was discussion about various topics that should be addressed by the ad hoc Committee. Issues to be addressed include but are not limited to yellowtail snapper, grouper, coral, etc., as well as compatible regulations for co-occurring species in the various jurisdictions. The first meeting will be held at the SERO in St. Petersburg, Florida prior to the Council's March 2013 meeting. Bob will conduct a doodle poll to determine the best time to schedule the first meeting.

## **5. SSC review responsibilities**

John Carmichael directed members to Attachment 5, which is the Job Description for our SSC. He gave the background as to how we arrived at the current job description, how it has worked to-date and potential changes to the job description the Council may want to consider. The committee discussed the role of the SSC for reviewing the various Council actions (amendments, regulatory amendments, framework actions, etc.). It was determined that the SSC should be provided detailed guidance via the SSC roadmap meeting document as to which aspects of the documents they should address. There was also discussion of the role of the SSC in reviewing SEDAR assessments and providing recommendations to the Council.

Bob lead a committee discussion of 3<sup>rd</sup> party stock assessments, both solicited and unsolicited. He provided information on how five of the other Fishery Management Councils addressed 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessments. There currently is no continuity or common policy among the Councils. There was extensive discussion relative to the SSC's role in dealing with 3<sup>rd</sup> party stock assessments and other issues related to this issue. John Carmichael indicated that our SSC had formed a subgroup to address the issue of 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessments coming before the SSC. It was decided to wait until the SSC had completed their work on this issue before proceeding, probably at the June meeting.

Monica raised the question as to how the two wreckfish assessments that were recently presented to the SSC should be handled. It was decided to wait until the SSC has completed their work and addressed the overall question as to how these cases should proceed.

## **3. Establishing priorities and timing for Council actions**

Gregg Waugh briefed the committee on the two documents provided for their consideration, the Follow-Up and the detailed FMP, Amendment and Framework table that indicates timelines for development of the various Council actions. Gregg reviewed where the Council stood on current ongoing amendments and planned activities. He briefed the committee on the details that were provided in the amendment timelines table. He pointed out the schedule is very full and that Council guidance to staff is needed. Committee members reviewed the various priorities and approved a motion to accept the FMP, Amendment and Framework timelines as presented.

## **4. Other Business**

### **A. Visioning Exercise**

Chairman Cupka indicated he would meet with the Executive Director next week to discuss development of a plan for proceeding with the Visioning Group and naming participants.

### **B. Tracking ACLs**

Dr. Crabtree asked the Council to provide guidance as to how they would like him to proceed when a fishery is closed before 100% of the quota is taken. The Committee discussed this issue and indicated that if you can get within 95% of the quota being reached, generally the fishery should not be reopened.

**MOTION #1: APPROVE THE DRAFT FMP, AMENDMENTS AND FRAMEWORKS  
TIMELINES TABLE AS PRESENTED FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.  
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**