

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT – EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 9, 2016
Jekyll Island, GA

The agenda was adopted, and the minutes of the December 2016 meeting were approved.

Status of CY 2015 Budget Expenditures

Mike Collins, Administrative Officer, gave the committee an overview of final expenditures on the CY 2015 budget. The remaining funds will be carried forward for the 2016 budget.

Draft 2016 Activity Schedule

Mike Collins, Administrative Officer, gave the committee an overview of the draft CY 2016 Activity Schedules for Council activities and SEDAR activities. Technical staff provide data on the number of meetings, locations, etc. and I project estimated costs based on number of participants, travel costs, etc. Both activity schedules feed into the Council's CY 2016 budget. There was some discussion to clarify how the costs are compiled into the total management cost.

Status of CY 2016 budget

Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, gave the committee a status report on the CY 2015 budget. During the Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) meeting February 24-25, 2016, NMFS briefed the Councils on funding levels and there was an increase of \$707,000 available for the Councils. Based on the existing allocation formula, the South Atlantic Council should receive a \$76,000 increase. The next step is for the spending plan to be approved. A draft budget should be available for the June 2016 Council meeting.

Council Follow-Up and 2016 Priorities (Attachment 4; 2nd BB)

Dr. Brian Chevront, Deputy Executive Director for Management, gave the committee an overview of the Council Follow-Up and the 2016 Priorities as approved at the December 2015 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 upcoming Council meeting. This allows Council members to see what is on the agenda and make any suggestions to the Chair and staff. Brian indicated that there would be a Shrimp Committee meeting and it was clarified that the AP Selection Committee would meet in September instead of June.

The final page of the follow-up shows the Council's approved priorities for the current year. The Committee discussed the priorities and provided the following guidance:

1. The Allocation Amendment is Dolphin/Wahoo Amendment 10/SG Amendment 44
2. Golden Tilefish/Gray Triggerfish – use the abbreviated framework process to update the catch level recommendations and bring this to the June Council meeting for final action. The Council will discuss the gray triggerfish size limit in June after receiving the stock assessment results. A decision will be made at that time whether a change in the minimum size limit is necessary and what vehicle will be used.

Standards and procedures for participating in Council webinar meetings

Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, reported that staff has not had sufficient time to work on draft standards and procedures for webinar meetings but would have a draft for the June Council meeting. The committee provided input that will be incorporated into a draft policy document.

Council Coordination Committee (CCC)

Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, gave the committee an overview of results from the February 24-25, 2016 CCC meeting. The agenda and briefing material are available from the link below. In addition, information from past CCC meetings is also available on this site. Dr. Michelle Duval, Council Chair, gave a presentation on the SAFMC Citizen Science workshop. The Council and NMFS were very interested and NMFS is collaborating with the Council on a South Atlantic Citizen Science Program.

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/management/councils/ccc/ccc.htm>

Other Business

1. Dr. Brian Chevront, Deputy Executive Director for Management, requested guidance from the committee on staff making changes to the No Action alternative in all amendment documents without requiring Council approval. The committee discussed this and agreed (see motion below) requesting that the decision document include a short statement indicating that the wording was changed.
2. Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, reviewed the current Council approved process for the NEFMC and MAFMC to participate in FMPs affecting their areas:
 - a. NEFMC has 1 voting seat on the Dolphin Wahoo Committee. This allows the NEFMC to have input into measures affecting Dolphin Wahoo as the FMP regulations apply along the entire east coast.
 - b. MAFMC has 1 voting seat on the Dolphin Wahoo Committee. This allows the MAFMC to have input into measures affecting Dolphin Wahoo as the FMP regulations apply along the entire east coast.
 - c. MAFMC has 2 voting seats on the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Committee. This allows the MAFMC to have input into measures affecting King Mackerel, Spanish Mackerel, and Cobia as the CMP FMP regulations apply in the MAFMC area.
 - d. MAFMC has 1 voting seat on the Snapper Grouper Committee. This allows the MAFMC to have input into measures affecting Snapper Grouper species (e.g., blueline tilefish, snowy grouper, etc.) as these species move northwards. The FMP regulations only apply in the SAFMC area.

The committee discussed this and agreed by consensus that the current process allows sufficient opportunity for input and that no changes were needed.

3. Council Staff Activities – Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, briefly reviewed major items that staff worked on January-early March. This will be done at each Council meeting and will give the committee/Council an opportunity to provide feedback that could guide staff work.

Motions:

MOTION #1: COUNCIL SEND A LETTER TO EILEEN SOBECK, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR FISHERIES, INDICATING THE NEED FOR FUNDING TO THE SERO/SEFSC TO IMPLEMENT HEADBOAT, CHARTER VESSEL, AND COMMERCIAL ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND REQUESTING CLARIFICATION ON HOW MUCH OF THE \$7 MILLION FUNDS FOR ELECTRONIC MONITORING/REPORTING WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR WORK IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL'S AREA

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #2: COUNCIL SEND A LETTER TO ALAN RISENHOOVER, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, COMMENTING ON THE CATCH SHARE PROGRAM REVIEW GUIDANCE

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #3: ALLOW STAFF TO MODIFY ALTERNATIVE 1 (NO ACTION) FOR ALL ACTIONS IN ALL AMENDMENTS AS NECESSARY TO REFLECT THE TRUE STATUS QUO WITHOUT REQUIRING COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR EACH CHANGE.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #4: DIRECT STAFF TO LOOK AT SEPARATE SEASONALITY AND RETENTION AMENDMENTS.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DIRECTION TO STAFF: WHEN LOOKING AT A SEASONALITY AMENDMENT SEE HOW BEGINNING AND ENDING DATES CAN BE ESTABLISHED AHEAD OF TIME. ASK STAFF FOR RECOMMENDATION ON WHETHER TWO AMENDMENTS OR JUST ONE ADDRESSING THE ISSUES WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT.

This concludes my report.