

SUMMARY REPORT
JOINT EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Charleston, South Carolina
September 15, 2009

The Executive and Finance Committees met in joint session the morning of September 15, 2009 in Charleston, South Carolina. The minutes from the June 2009 Joint Executive Finance Committee were approved. The Committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

1. Status of the CY2009 Council budget

Bob Mahood briefed the committee on the status of the CY2009 budget. Attachment 1 shows that the expenditures for the year are below what would be expected and the projected balance is positive. This is primarily because of the length of time the continuing budget resolution was in place and the uncertainty in the level of the CY2009 budget, which necessitated the Council limiting activities and expenditures during the first part of the year. The Council also received more funding than was anticipated when the Congressional budget was passed. Bob indicated the Council is in good shape financially and should have adequate funding to accomplish the activities specified in the Activities Schedule during 2009.

Because of the positive budget situation in 2009, the state liaison funding was increased to better compensate the states for their increased participation in the Council process. There was a discussion on how this has helped the states as well as benefited the Council.

With the additional funds available the committee agreed that staff should proceed in scheduling a meeting of the SSC in October to deal with a number of outstanding issues. At that meeting a special panel (with appropriate expertise) would be convened to meet with the SSC to review the accuracy of historical data used in the stock assessments. Also the committee agreed a meeting should be convened to address the wreckfish fishery. In addition, funds should be used for the Council's participation in Take Reduction Team activities.

2. Status of the FY2010 President's/Congressional budget

The President's budget calls for an increase in funding for the eight Councils of approximately 4.7 million dollars. That would equate to about a \$500,000 increase for our Council. The Senate and House Appropriations Committees budget marks propose Council funding levels similar to the President's budget. However, it appears that the Commerce Department's

budget will not be approved in the near term and we will be under a continuing resolution again for FY2010. If the funding levels in the President's/Congressional Committee's budgets are maintained, we will be in pretty good shape in FY2010.

3. CY2010 Activities Schedule and Budget (of the Council's 5-year grant request)

Bob Mahood explained that the staff is currently developing the next 5-year grant request covering CY2010-2014. He then presented the CY2010 Activities Schedule and budget to the Council, which constitutes the first year of the 5-year proposal. Bob then led the Council through the proposed budget comparing the CY2010 budget and funding sources to CY2009. Overall Council funding is expected to increase approximately \$492,255 in CY2010, primarily as the result of an increase to the Regional Fishery Management Council's line item in the proposed President's/Congressional Committee budgets and the addition of ACL and SSC stipend funds from NMFS. He explained how the eight Councils allocated new funds provided by Congress and NMFS.

It was noted the CY2010 Council budget is proposed at about \$300,000 higher than the expected funding level. Bob explained there are two reasons for this, first that is what it will actually cost to accomplish the Council's proposed activities and second there is a potential the Councils may receive more funding than is currently projected. If the higher level of funding does not materialize the Council will have to readdress the activities schedule and cuts will have to be made to accommodate the funding received.

During discussion of the budget there was again strong support from the committee members for the proposed increase in the liaison funding for the states. It was recognized that the Council receives a much greater benefit from the state's participation than the funding provided.

NO MOTIONS