

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT
JOINT EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Jekyll Island, Georgia
March 2, 2010

The Executive and Finance Committees met in joint session the afternoon of March 2, 2010 in Jekyll Island, Georgia. The minutes from the December 2009 Joint Executive/Finance Committee were approved. The Committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

1. Proposed CY2010 budget and Activities Schedule

Bob Mahood briefed the Committee on the 2010 Council budget providing comparisons to the 2009 budget. He indicated that the Council received an increase in the Congressional line-item budget category as well as additional funds for SEDAR and ACL development. The total budget presented to the Committee was \$3,763,882.

The Committee discussed the state technical agreements and how the amount each state will receive was determined. Mr. Mahood told the Committee that there was a base amount each state received plus an amount to compensate for state employee participation on the SSC.

It was explained how the SEDAR budget was incorporated as part of the overall Council budget under one grant. Most of the discussion addressed the issue of paying Council member compensation and travel out of SEDAR funds when they participated in SEDAR activities. There was the question of whether it would be more appropriate for them to be paid out of Council administrative funds. There was agreement that it benefits the management process to have Council members attend SEDAR workshops, however, the costs associated with paying them with SEDAR funds may impact the SEDAR process. The Committee concluded that Mr. Mahood should work with Dr. Bonnie Ponwith to develop possible options. Also, the SEDAR Steering Committee members will address this issue at their May 2010 meeting. This item will be brought back to the Committee at the June 2010 meeting.

The Committee reviewed the 2010 Activities Schedule. Mr. Mahood explained how the activities schedule is developed, how it relates to the budget and how it is used to track meeting expenditures throughout the year. Mr. Geiger pointed out that since we no longer have Bluefish or Calico Scallop Committees the budget line for these species should be deleted from the activities schedule.

A motion to accept the CY2010 budget as presented was approved. Dr. Roy Crabtree also indicated that additional funds may be available if the Council incurs additional costs related to meeting the mandates of the Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act.

2. Briefing on No-Cost Extension request

Mr. Mahood informed the Committee that the Council's request to extend the 2005-2009 Grant for an additional year was approved. He indicated this will help the Council complete activities in 2010 that were originally scheduled in 2009.

3. Status report on the CY2010 Council budget

Mr. Mahood briefed the committee on the status of the CY2010 budget. He indicated that the expenditures for the year are below what would be expected and the projected balance is positive. Bob indicated that at this point the Council is in good shape financially and will have adequate funding to accomplish the activities specified in the Activities Schedule during 2010.

4. Status of the President's/Congressional FY2011 budget

The President's FY 2011 budget has been released; however, Congress has not taken action to-date. Mr. Mahood provided a brief overview focused on areas of interest to the Council. The Councils are only slated for a small increase in the President's FY2011 budget, basically only covering inflation or cost of living increases. There was discussion of funding for MARMAP and SEAMAP. Dr. Ponwith pointed out that there was a significant cut in the Cooperative Research Program that will affect efforts to involve fishermen in the scientific data collection process. Committee member expressed disappointment in the proposed funding for data collection.

6. Develop details of Council and SSC compensation policy for webinars

The Committee discussed developing specific details to incorporate into the Council's recently approved policy on Council member and eligible SSC member compensation for participating in webinars. Members reviewed the Gulf Council's webinar/conference call compensation policy and discussed how our process would work and how authorized assignments would be made. Since Council member's participation in webinars will be tied to the SEDAR process, and there is a desire to have consistency among the three southeast Councils, it was decided to wait for the results of the SEDAR Steering Committee addressing this issue at their May 2010 meeting. This issue will be brought back before the Committee for action in June.

MOTION: Approve the CY2010 Council budget as presented in Attachment 1A.