

**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**JOINT EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Charleston, South Carolina**  
**September 15, 2008**

The Executive and Finance Committees met in joint session the afternoon of September 15, 2008 in Charleston, South Carolina. The minutes from the March 4, 2008 Joint Executive Finance Committee were approved. The Committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

**1. CY 2008 Activities Schedule**

Bob provided the updated activities schedule and associated costs of the meetings held to-date for the Committee.

**2. CY 2008 Council budget**

Bob referred the Council to Attachments 2A and 2B. He reminded everyone how we had to develop our initial budget for FY 2008, prior to knowing exactly what our funding level would be, and what has transpired subsequent to establishing that budget. We did not receive the level of funding anticipated and have had to watch our expenditures very closely. He indicated that we will make it through the year with a very small surplus. Based on what we have expended to-date, known obligations for the rest of the year and the actual amount of funding the Council received for 2008, we should end the year with a balance of approximately 12K.

**3. Department of Commerce FY 2009**

Indications are the Congress will not pass a Department of Commerce budget prior to October 1, 2008. If that happens, Congress will have to approve a continuing resolution to fund DOC, NMFS and the Councils. It is doubtful that the FY 2009 budget will be approved before the change of administrations and the continuing resolution may carry forward into next year.

**4. Establishment of a Data Collection Improvement Committee**

Chairman Geiger led the discussion of this item and provided the Council with his perspective of what a Data Collection Improvement Committee would do and how it would benefit the Council process. He pointed out that a major theme we hear at public meetings is the need to improve the information our decisions are based on.

There was discussion of our SEDAR data needs recommendations that are compiled annually. It was noted this committee would go beyond just listing data needs and deal with how to use modern technology to improve data collection in terms of timeliness and quality.

The Joint Executive Finance Committee decided not to take any action at this time, but to consider the establishment of Data Collection Improvement Committee in the future. It was also decided to have staff arrange for a presentation to the Council on modern technology that is available for improved data collection that may in use in various fisheries.