

**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**JOINT EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Charleston, South Carolina**  
**September 14, 2010**

The Executive and Finance Committees met in joint session the afternoon of September 14, 2010 in Charleston, South Carolina. The minutes from the June 2010 Joint Executive/Finance Committee were approved. The Committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

**1. 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 with the potential to carry funds forward into the second year of the Council's five-year grant.

**2. Report on additional SEDAR funding**

Bob informed the committee members that \$300K will be provided to the South Atlantic Council by NMFS to supplement the SEDAR program in the Gulf of Mexico. This is part of a funding package related to potential impacts on GMFMC managed species from the oil discharge. The funds will be used to hire an additional SEDAR Coordinator for the Gulf area and to conduct additional stock assessments as needed in the future.

There was discussion about the use of webinars as part of the SEDAR process. Mr. Hartig explained how using webinars has affected fishermen's participation and indicated that he would like to see this addressed as the use of webinars is evaluated and modified in the future.

**3. Discuss Mark Robson's letter to Bob Shipp**

Committee members discussed the August 13, 2010 letter from Mark Robson to Bob Shipp relative to management of spiny lobster, stone crab, octocoral and reef fish (yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper and Nassau grouper). The issues related to spiny lobster and octocoral had been addressed in the Spiny Lobster and Ecosystem-Based Management Committees, and stone crab is exclusively a Gulf Council issue, so no action was taken on those species. Mark Robson explained that the purpose of the letter was to get clarification relative to Florida's and the Councils' management of these resources. Mr. Cupka indicated that the Gulf Council discussed the letter at their recent meeting but did not take any action as they were waiting for our Council to take action first. Various management scenarios were discussed. Subsequently the committee approved a

motion to indicate to the State of Florida and the Gulf Council our willingness to assume management responsibility for yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper and Nassau grouper throughout their range.

#### **4. Discuss timeliness of commercial and recreational quota monitoring**

Dr. Chevront explained that he had requested this item be placed on the agenda after the June meeting where NMFS had presented information to the council on the mackerel quota monitoring program. Subsequent to that report he went back and looked at previous quota monitoring reports where he found disparities in the accuracy and timeliness of the reporting that concerned him. He provided background on how this affected fishermen trying to determine how much of the quota was still available to be harvested.

Dr. Ponwith explained how the quota monitoring program works and outlined the problems that contributed to the concerns that Dr. Chevront expressed. The council approved a motion to send a letter to Dr. Ponwith requesting that she come up with recommendations for resolving the current accuracy/timeliness problems by facilitating a meeting with the appropriate state agencies and other entities involved in the quota monitoring efforts, including the ACCSP.

There was also a discussion about recreational quota monitoring in light of the mandates to establish ACLs and AMs. Dr. Ponwith indicated she will be participating in a conference call with the MRIP folks next week to address some of the same issues we were discussing at this meeting. She provided background on some of other issues they will be discussing. There was some committee discussion about the pros and cons of one month vs. two month sampling waves in the MRIP. This led to a discussion about the quality of the data vs. the timeliness of the data. There were differing views on which should be the highest priority, accuracy or timeliness. It was agreed that accuracy was of the utmost importance; however, under certain circumstances timeliness of the data may take precedence.

**MOTION #1:** Indicate to the Gulf Council and the FWC our willingness to assume management responsibility for yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper and Nassau grouper throughout their range.

**MOTION #2:** Send a letter to the Dr. Ponwith (SEFSC) requesting that she consult with the appropriate state agencies and ACCSP to resolve the problems with timely reporting of quota monitored species.