

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Jekyll Island, GA**  
**March 4, 2020**

The Committee approved the meeting agenda and minutes from the December 2019 meeting.

**COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

Brian Chevront reviewed the Council priorities and amendment workplan for 2020, noting the plan and planning process seem to be working, based on the Council completing the tasks planned for the December and March meetings. A higher workload is expected for the June meeting.

**GULF AND SOUTH ATLANTIC WORKING GROUP**

The Committee reviewed the Gulf Council letter addressing the joint working group. Additional guidance for the working group was provided as follows:

- Develop a committee charge and work plan during the first meeting, considering issues that are appropriate for joint discussion
- Review the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Act
- Provide background information on new or alternative recreational fisheries management approaches, including the presentations from the November 2019 CCC meeting and the 2018 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit
- Encourage SAFMC and GMFMC staff supporting the working group to provide examples of alternative recreational management approaches that have been considered or put into place by states or other Councils

**COUNCIL POLICIES AND PRACTICES**

John Carmichael provided a summary of the Council Leadership retreat held in Charleston SC, at which Council Senior Staff met with the Council Chair and Vice Chair to discuss expectations and process. A follow-up retreat is planned for August 2020 to evaluate progress. Similar retreats will be held annually in the future.

The proposal for an SAFMC Award of Excellence was reviewed and approved by the Committee. Changes recommended in the draft policy include limiting travel reimbursements for group recipients to 5 individuals, limiting submission of nominations to Council, SSC, and AP members, and supporting a permanent plaque in the Council office to list all recipients. The first nominations will be due by June 30, 2020. They will be reviewed by the Executive Committee in a closed session webinar meeting which will be noticed in the Federal Register.

**MOTION #1: ESTABLISH THE SAFMC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE AND GUIDELINES AS MODIFIED.**

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

The Council Committee Consolidation plan was reviewed and approved for implementation for the June 2020 meeting. The proposal was modified to create a HMS Liaison, to ensure continued Council representation in the HMS process.

It was noted that the AP and SSC Liaisons will be critical to supporting the Council chair during application discussions. Staff preparation for SSC and AP selection activities for June 2020 will be conducted similar to past preparations. The Council will address selection decisions during a Full Council closed session, scheduled on the first day of the meeting. The Council chair will be assisted by the SSC Liaison and the AP Liaison (current AP Selection Committee Chair).

The Council Chair and Vice Chair will review membership of the current Executive Finance, SOPPS, and Personnel Committees and consider revising membership of the new Executive Committee to ensure adequate and appropriate representation.

**MOTION #2: APPROVE THE COMMITTEE CONSOLIDATION PLAN AS MODIFIED.  
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

A brief summary of proposed changes in the NEPA process, and the opportunity for Council comment, was provided. A draft letter will be provided for Council review and discussion during the Executive Finance Committee Report at Full Council. The letter must be submitted by March 10, 2020.

The next meeting of the Council Coordination Committee will be hosted by the Western Pacific Council and held May 26-29, 2020 in Hawaii. The agenda is currently in preparation. SAFMC has requested updates on Council Training, MSA legislation, NMFS research plans and funding, next steps for MRIP, and the GAO allocations report.

There was a short discussion of the Atlantic Science Coordination Workshop that will occur in late April, and the Council's efforts in 2019 to begin discussion management responses to species shifts. The Council directed staff to contact the 3 Atlantic Councils and ASFMC during Summer 2020 to discuss how to proceed.

### **Timing and Tasks**

#### **Motion #3: MOVE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TIMING and TASKS**

- Notify Council, SSC, and AP members of the new Award of Excellence and the June 30, 2020 deadline for submitting nominations for the first award.
- Incorporate the committee consolidation plan for the June 2020 meeting and update Council guidance documents as required.
- Submit the NEPA changes comment letter by March 10, 2020.
- Coordinate with the GMFMC to arrange a meeting of the Joint Working Group between April and June 2020.
- Contact the NEFMC, MAFMC, and ASMFC to discuss next steps for addressing management concerns related to species distribution shifts.
- APPROVED BY COUNCIL

**Motion #4:** APPROVE THE DRAFT LETTER TO THE CEQ AS THE COUNCIL COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED NEPA MODIFICATIONS.  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL