

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Stuart, FL**  
**June 10, 2019**

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

**Report from May 2019 CCC Meetings**

Gregg Waugh stated that Jessica McCawley did an excellent job running the meeting despite never attending a CCC meeting. He reviewed the report from the May 13-16, 2019 CCC meeting held in Charleston, SC (June BB Executive Finance; **Attachment 1**) and thanked Council staff for the excellent support during the meeting and for the presentation outlining SAFMC activities ([StoryMap](#)). Jessica McCawley (Chair) and Mel Bell (Vice Chair) agreed that the meeting was well run and productive. Jessica McCawley asked about the topics suggested by Dave Whaley. The Committee provided guidance and direction (see draft timing & task motion below).

**Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization & Modern Fisheries Act**

Dr. Jack McGovern presented an overview of the new act (June BB Executive Finance; **Attachment 2b**). The Committee discussed the need for specific examples of how the Councils can make use of the flexibility for managing recreational fisheries. The Act calls for a number of reports and the Committee expressed the need for a table showing the reports, what will be included, deadlines, guidelines, etc.

During the CCC meeting, Dave Whaley indicated that comments on the Senate Staff Working Draft would still be helpful. The Committee directed staff to prepare draft comments, circulate them to the Council for review/input, and provide to Dave Whaley by the end of June.

**CCC Working Paper**

Gregg Waugh stated that the CCC approved changes to the consensus statements to 3 topics: Topic 1. Stock Rebuilding, Topic 14. Stock Assessment and Survey Data, and Topic 19. Aquaculture. Each Council is free to change their Regional Perspective at any time; the consensus statements must be approved by the CCC. The Committee discussed Experimental Fishing Permits and expressed the desire to have a higher level of review for any project that a Council, State, or regional group provide objections or that is very controversial. Staff was directed to prepare draft wording for full Council (see draft motion #2 below).

**Draft Calendar Year (CY) January-December 2019 Operational Budget**

Gregg Waugh and Kelly Klasnick reviewed the budget. The Council's funding for 2019 is \$3.9M and the draft operational budget approved in March was also \$3.9M. No significant changes were made to the budget and staff will monitor expenditures to ensure we remain within our budget. This same funding level will be used for Year 1 in the Council's next 5-year grant beginning in 2020. The Committee approved the budget (see motion below).

## **Council Follow-up and Priorities & Tiering**

The Council discussed its priorities to work on for the next two meetings. The following decisions were made:

### **September 2019**

Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 29 – Best Practices and Powerheads  
Snapper Grouper Abbreviated Framework 3 – Blueline Tilefish ACL  
CMP Framework 8 – King Mackerel Trip Limits in Season 2  
Dolphin Wahoo 10 – Dolphin Wahoo actions and Goals & Objectives  
Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 33 – Red Snapper Season Modifications  
Bullet and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Species in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery  
Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 34 – NC/SC SMZs  
Spanish Mackerel White Paper  
Wreckfish ITQ Review  
Coral 10/Shrimp 11/Golden Crab 10 – Transit Provisions/Oculina Extensions/Golden Crab Allowable Fishing Zones

### **December 2019**

Snapper Grouper Amendment 46 – Recreational Permits and Reporting  
Snapper Grouper Abbreviated Framework 3 – Blueline Tilefish ACL  
CMP Framework 8 – King Mackerel Trip Limits in Season 2  
Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 33 – Red Snapper Season Modifications  
Commercial Electronic Reporting  
Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 31 – Recreational AMs  
Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 34 – NC/SC SMZs  
ABC Control Rule  
SG1 and Lobster Tailing Permits

### **Other Business**

None.

### **Motions:**

The Committee approved the following motion (Motion #1):

**MOTION #1.** APPROVE THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019 OPERATIONAL BUDGET.  
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

STAFF WERE DIRECTED TO PREPARE OPTIONS FOR TEXT TO BE ADDED TO THE END OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> PARAGRAPH OF THE TOPIC 13. EFP TEXT (wording included at end of report):

**MOTION #2: ADOPT Option 1b.** It is the SAFMC's intent that in addition to providing EFP requests to the Councils, NMFS WOULD provide EFP requests to all affected state agencies and if they object, or if the EFP request is particularly controversial, OR IF A SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL BENEFIT WOULD BE DERIVED BY THE APPLICANT, the affected Councils' Scientific and Statistical Committee will review the EFP request and provide recommendations to the Council. The Council will consider the SSC comments during their discussions to develop recommendations for NMFS.  
APPROVED BY COUNCIL

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**Note:** Council staff drafts the timing and task motion based on Committee action. If points require clarification, they will be added to the draft motion. The Committee should review this wording carefully to be sure it accurately reflects their intent prior to making the motion.

**Timing and Task(s)**

**MOTION #3. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK(S):**

- 1) Directed staff to prepare short discussion papers on the following topics; provide to the Council for review/input and send to Dave Whaley by the end of June:
  - a. Shifting stocks and changing ocean conditions
  - b. Forage fish
  - c. Timelines for amendments
  - d. Habitat
- 2) Request NMFS provide specific examples of how the Councils can make use of the flexibility for managing recreational fisheries.
- 3) Request NMFS prepare a table showing the reports required by the Modern Fisheries Act, what will be included, deadlines, guidelines, responsible agency/group, etc.
- 4) Directed staff to prepare draft comments on the Senate Draft Wording for MSA Reauthorization, circulate them to the Council for review/input, and provide to Dave Whaley by the end of June.
- 5) Directed staff to Revise the CCC Working Paper as needed and provide the revised document to Dave Witherell, Chair of the CCC Legislative Work Group.
- 6) Directed staff to work on the following items for the September 2019 Council meeting:
  - Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 29 – Best Practices and Powerheads
  - Snapper Grouper Abbreviated Framework 3 – Blueline Tilefish ACL
  - CMP Framework 8 – King Mackerel Trip Limits in Season 2
  - Dolphin Wahoo 10 – Dolphin Wahoo actions and Goals & Objectives
  - Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 33 – Red Snapper Season Modifications
  - Bullet and Frigate Mackerel as Ecosystem Species in the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery
  - Snapper Grouper Regulatory Amendment 34 – NC/SC SMZs
  - Spanish Mackerel White Paper
  - Wreckfish ITQ Review
  - Coral 10/Shrimp 11/Golden Crab 10 – Transit Provisions/Oculina Extensions/Golden Crab Allowable Fishing Zones

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

## **CCC WORKING PAPER WORDING**

### **TOPIC 13. EXPERIMENTAL FISHING PERMIT (EFP) AUTHORITY**

#### **Consensus Position**

*“The CCC believes that exempted fishing permits (EFPs) are an extremely important and useful mechanism to conduct scientific research. For example, EFPs have been used in different regions of the U.S. to conduct surveys, test monitoring devices under field conditions, investigate invasive species, and develop fishing gear that reduces bycatch and reduces impacts on habitat and protected species. These studies are frequently done by the fishing community at no cost to the public and have provided enormous benefits to the conservation and management of marine resources and habitats.*

*The CCC believes that the existing regulations already provide a good framework for developing regional processes for issuing and reviewing EFPs. The EFP applications undergo a regional scientific peer review and are evaluated through a public process by the respective regional Councils. The public and affected states have opportunities to comment to NMFS and the Councils during this process. Any new requirements for the EFP process, such as additional social and economic analysis or further consultation with the state governors, would greatly reduce the ability to get EFPs developed and approved in a timely manner.*

*In addition, the CCC believes that multi-year EFPs provide the necessary flexibility to scientifically test gear across different years and seasons. New regulations that limit EFPs to a 12-month period will restrict the type and quality of research that can be done, thus limiting the usefulness of the data collected.”*