

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Jekyll Island, GA
March 8, 2018

The Committee approved minutes from the December 2017 meeting and the agenda.

Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization

Gregg Waugh presented an update on finalization of the CCC Working Paper. A number of hearings have been held and that portion of the reauthorization process is likely complete; testimony from Council-related folks is available from the U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils Website (<http://www.fisherycouncils.org>). Should the South Atlantic Council be asked to provide input, we will use the regional perspectives and consensus positions in the CCC Working Paper as the basis of our comments. Note: Senator Graham's office asked for comments and the letter is available at the above link. The CCC was asked to send the working paper to the Secretary of Commerce and this was done November 15, 2017 (both are available from the above link).

Final CY 2017 Expenditures and Draft CY 2018 Budget

Mike Collins presented the final CY 2017 Budget and Gregg Waugh presented the status of the draft CY 2018 Budget with expenditures through early February. The expectation is that funding will be level in 2018 and the Draft CY 2018 Budget is projected at the same level as expenditures in CY 2017. Final figures should be available for the Council to approve a budget at the June 2018 Council meeting and staff will bring in a budget at the level of funds received.

The Committee discussed reorganizing Outreach expenditures to reduce the amount spent on producing hard copy materials and increase the presence at festivals, trade shows, and fishing clubs while also addressing some special projects (system management plan, photo archiving & library, videos, etc.). There was support for moving to electronic materials and also some concern about fishermen who are not using computers. The Committee directed staff to use a postcard to have individuals "Opt-in" to keep getting hard copy newsletter and other material.

The Committee discussed reinstating full funding to the States but agreed to revisit the issue at the June 2018 meeting after the Personnel Committee meets.

Council Follow-up and Priorities

Dr. Brian Chevront reviewed the latest follow-up document and the priorities approved at the December Council meeting and presented the additional items identified at this meeting:

1. Allowable Fishing Zones, including standardizing transit zones – this is currently on the list as a Coral/Shrimp activity (Chip).
2. Snapper Grouper Amendment 46 – move Best Fishing Practices to a separate framework document; keep private recreational license and reporting in Amendment 46. (Christina)
3. Accountability Measures Amendment – currently on list (Brian).

4. Yellowtail Snapper Commercial Accountability Measures Framework – the Committee considered including this in #3 but this needs to move quickly so was separated into a framework. (Myra)
5. Sea Turtle Release Gear – the document is well developed based on a similar document in the Gulf of Mexico. (Chip)
6. King Mackerel Trip Limits
7. Yellowtail Snapper – longer term measures (trip limits, etc.); will not be worked on during the next quarter.

The Committee discussed priorities and provided the following guidance to staff for the top priorities:

- Yellowtail Snapper Commercial Accountability Measures (Myra)
- Recreational Visioning Amendment (Myra)
- Commercial Visioning Amendment (Myra)
- Red Grouper Rebuilding Plan (John Hadley)
- Golden Tilefish – Abbreviated Amendment or Framework depending on which actions remain (Brian)

In June 2018, the Council is also expecting to discuss:

- For-Hire Permit Moratorium – Scoping results
- Socioeconomic Report
- Spiny Lobster Amendment
- Snapper Grouper Amendment 46 (Private Recreational Licensing & Reporting)
- Snapper Grouper Framework (Best Fishing Practices)
- ABC Control Rule Amendment
- Accountable Measures Amendment
- Snapper Grouper Amendment 38 (Blueline Tilefish)

Staff will be working on other items as time permits:

- Yellowtail Snapper – consider how to evaluate combining ACLs, trip limits, etc.
- Wreckfish – will not be discussed in June

Regulatory Reform

Gregg Waugh reviewed the process/timing approved by the South Atlantic Council approved at their December 2017 meeting:

- Continue to request public comments at the March and June 2018 Council meetings
- Each technical staff review the regulations for their FMPs – January/February 2018
- Coordinate with the SERO on potential regulations to remove – February 2018
- Bring draft list to Executive Finance Committee in March 2018
- Public Input during public comment session at March 5-9, 2018 Council meeting
- Council reviews and provides input at March 2018 meeting
- Have Advisory Panels (Species and Law Enforcement APs) and SSC/SEP review between March and June 2018 Council meetings; mail to APs not meeting in person
- Coordinate with SERO and NOAA GC between March and June 2018 Council meetings
- Bring revised list to Executive Finance Committee in June 2018

- Council reviews and approves list of regulations to be removed at June 11-15, 2018 meeting
- Council sends list of regulations to be removed to NMFS by June 22, 2018

Dr. Brian Chevront presented the items suggested by Council staff and some items suggested by the NMFS SERO. The Committee directed staff to remove the spiny lobster item addressing ACLs, ACTs, and AMs until the Magnuson-Stevens Act is changed to remove these requirements. Jessica McCawley will provide additional spiny lobster items that should be considered.

Atlantic Coast-Wide Group Discussion

Gregg Waugh reviewed results from the informal meeting of the Council group (Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director of the 3 East Coast Councils). The Group wants to explore how the Coastal Migratory Pelagic FMP was amended to extend jurisdiction through the Mid-Atlantic Council area. A list of priority species will be developed. The Chair, Vice Chair, and Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Council would like to attend the South Atlantic Council’s September meeting to discuss this topic. The Committee recommends scheduling this and inviting the New England Council to send a representative(s).

Council Training/Webinars

Gregg Waugh reviewed the proposed options for new and continuing Council member training. One new item, mentoring by past Council members, was suggested by staff. The Committee discussed having them at the Council Orientation versus assigning each new Council member a mentor to work with the as a resource and directed staff to explore having them work mentor members without being at the Orientation meeting.

Other Business

Gregg Waugh reviewed the report from the Council Coordination Committee meeting February 27-28, 2018. Aquaculture is receiving lots of attention and MSA Reauthorization is continuing. The Council has the opportunity to comment on a number of documents being developed; Council staff will work with Council members to develop comments and determine if we participate on work groups.

The Committee also provided some additional input on the format for decision documents.

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 #1. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TIMING AND TASK(S):

- 1) The committee directed staff to use a postcard to have individuals “Opt-in” to keep getting hard copy newsletter and other materials.
- 2) If comments on Reauthorization are requested, staff is to develop a draft response and circulate to all Council members before finalization.
- 3) Directed staff to revise the Draft 2018 Budget for the June meeting.
- 4) Revise the Priorities based on guidance received.

- 5) Prepare a draft list of regulations for removal for the Advisory Panels to review; coordinate with NMFS and NOAA GC; and bring a revised list to the June meeting. Publicize the public's opportunity to comment and provide suggestions prior to the June meeting.
- 6) Schedule a session to discuss "Atlantic Coast-Wide Species Movements" at the September Council meeting. Invite the MAFMC and NEFMC to attend and participate.
- 7) Directed staff to prepare a list of priority species and research the process used to extend jurisdiction of the CMP FMP; provide for discussions at the May CCC meeting; and bring results to the June Council meeting.
- 8) Establish a list of Council members willing to be a mentor to new Council members.
- 9) Draft comments for Council review on items from the CCC meeting.
- 10) Modify the format for Decision Documents to have the wording of actions before the tables; the Committee find the standardization very helpful.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL