

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT - EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**MARCH 5, 2015**  
**ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA**

The Executive Finance Committee met on March 5, 2015 in St. Simons Island, Georgia. The minutes from the December 2015 Executive Finance Committee were approved. The Committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

**1. Status of the CY 2015 budget and budget expenditures**

The Committee was briefed on the Council's funding level for 2015. The funding level increased approximately \$71K from the CY 2014 level. Although this slight increase is positive, it still does not restore the Council to 2012 funding levels.

It was noted that Attachment 1 shows our budget for CY 2015 and the expenditures and obligations that have been incurred to-date.

**2. Council Follow-Up and priorities**

Gregg Waugh directed the members to Attachment 2 that shows the Council's previously approved priorities for 2015 and 2016. He then briefed the Committee on the various actions on the priority list and the proposed modifications for their consideration. The Committee discussed issues related to red grouper and the current priorities and additional actions that should be dropped or added. A motion to approve the revised priority list was approved. An updated spreadsheet is attached.

**3. Joint South Florida Committee**

The Committee was briefed on some of the challenges faced by two Councils working jointly on regulatory actions. Gregg Waugh walked the Committee through Attachment 3A "Modifications to Gulf Reef Fish and South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plans" in an effort to point out changes that have been made in a later version of the document prepared by the Gulf Council. There were a number of areas where language had been removed in the newer version that Committee members felt should be reinstated into the document. There was significant Committee discussion on these documents. A running list of requested modifications was maintained as the Committee went through the document, as well as direction to staff. A motion was made to approve the actions/alternatives in the Joint South Florida Amendment with the modifications made by the committee.

**4. CCC meeting**

There was a short briefing on the recent CCC meeting. Discussion items included the 2015 budgets, Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization and National Standard Guidelines. There will be a presentation on the proposed changes to the National Standard Guidelines at our June Council meeting.

**5. Staff Health Insurance**

The Executive Director briefed the Committee on potential changes to the staff health insurance program that would save the Council money and provide a benefit to the staff members at retirement. He and the Administrative Officer are working on a proposal that will be presented to the Council at the June meeting.

## **6. Other Business**

Dr. Laney made a proposal to combine the Ecosystem-Based Management Committee with the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee. He indicated the memberships of both committees were very similar and this change would not exclude anyone currently serving on the two existing committees. He proposed that Doug Hayman and he Co-Chair the new committee. A motion was made to combine the Ecosystem-Based Management Committee with the Habitat and Environmental Protection Committee into one Ecosystem Habitat Protection Committee.

Chairman Hartig proposed establishment of a work group to investigate the possibility of creating Citizen Science and Cooperative Research Advisory Panels. This is to be discussed further during the full Council session.

### **MOTION #1: TO APPROVE THE REVISED PRIORITY LIST.**

### **MOTION #2: APPROVE THE ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES IN THE JOINT SOUTH FLORIDA AMENDMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:**

- 1. ACTION 1. ENSURE NOTE ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN IS INCLUDED. PROVIDE CLARIFICATION ABOUT MINOR MODIFICATIONS.**
- 2. ACTION 3. ENSURE NOTE ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN IS INCLUDED. PROVIDE CLARIFICATION ABOUT MINOR MODIFICATIONS, AND WHY DELEGATING BAG/TRIP LIMITS (FOR FUTURE) AND SPECIFYING BAG/TRIP LIMITS IN THIS AMENDMENT.**
- 3. ACTION 5. PROVIDE CLARIFICATION ABOUT DUPLICATION OF BAG LIMIT ACTIONS AND INSERT “WITHIN THE AGGREGATE SNAPPER BAG LIMIT” AT THE START OF OPITON 3C.**
- 4. ACTION 6. PROVIDE CLARIFICATION ABOUT DUPLICATION OF TRIP LIMIT ACTIONS. COPY OPTIONS 3A & 3B UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5.**
- 5. ACTION 7. ENSURE NOTE ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN IS INCLUDED. PROVIDE CLARIFICATION ABOUT MINOR MODIFICATIONS AND DUPLICATION.**
- 6. ACTION 9. REMOVE OLD STAFF NOTE AND CHANGE WORDING OF ALTERNATIVES 3, 4, & 5 BACK TO WHAT THE JOINT COMMITTEES APPROVED BECAUSE THIS TRACKS WHAT IS IN THE SAFMC’S GENERIC AM AMENDMENT. ALSO, CHANGE THE OPTIONS AND SUB-OPTIONS UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5 BACK TO WHAT THE JOINT COMMITTEES APPROVED BECAUSE THIS WILL BE CLEARER TO THE COUNCILS AND THE PUBLIC.**
- 7. ACTION 11. CHANGE THE OPTIONS UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3 BACK TO WHAT THE JOINT COMMITTEES APPROVED BECAUSE THIS WILL BE CLEARER TO THE PUBLIC. CLARIFY ABOUT DUPLICATION. ADD DISCUSSION THAT COULD INCLUDE COMMERCIAL CHANGES AND ADD A NEW ALTERNATIVE THE WOULD EXAMINE THE SAME TIME PERIOD FOR CLOSURES FOR THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR AS IS SHOWN UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3.**
- 8. ACTION 12 (CIRCLE HOOKS). KEEP ALTERNATIVE 5 IN THE DOCUMENT.**
- 9. ACTION 13 (HARMONIZE THE SIZE AND BAG LIMITS OFF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA). KEEP ALTERNATIVES 2 AND 3 IN THE DOCUMENT AND CHANGE THE WORDING OF THE ACTION BACK TO WHAT THE JOINT COMMITTEES APPROVED.**

**MOTION #3: COMBINE THE ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WITH THE HABITAT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE INTO ONE ECOSYSTEM HABITAT PROTECTION COMMITTEE.**

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION: CHANGE TO HABITAT PROTECTION AND ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.**

**MOTION #4: CONVENE A WORKSHOP TO DEVELOP A SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM, AND APPOINT AN ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE WORKSHOP.**