

**SUMMARY REPORT
EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA
MARCH 7, 2013**

The Executive Finance Committee met on March 7, 2013 in St. Simons Island, Georgia. The minutes from the December 2012 Executive Finance Committee were approved. The Committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

1. Status of Federal FY 2013 budget

Bob Mahood provided an overview on the FY2013 budget. He explained that, as we are all aware, the federal government is operating under a continuing resolution, which may be in place for the remainder of 2013. Also, the Sequester has gone into effect, which will affect our 2013 funding. He related that at the February Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) meeting the Councils were informed that under the Sequester our budget will be reduced by 5% across all funding line items. This would amount to approximately \$176,143 for our Council. He indicated that we would be able to weather this budget reduction using funds we have carried forward from earlier grant years. He reminded the committee that we have been conserving funds critical to the Council's future operations, as we braced for these anticipated budget cuts.

2. CY2013 Council budget expenditures

Mr. Mahood briefed the committee on the Council's expenditures for CY2013. He noted that although we do not have a specific CY2013 funding level to-date, we have been operating under a proposed budget that would accomplish our goals for the year. He noted that we are in very good shape for CY2013 having expended only 10% of the budget through February 15th.

3. Update on the Joint Committee on South Florida Management Issues

Chairman Cupka briefed the Committee on the first meeting of the Joint Committee on South Florida Management Issues held via webinar on February 25, 2013. The Committee consists of our Executive Committee and five Gulf Council members, with support staff from the Councils and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He provided background on the makeup and function of the group, and the support staff. The Chairman indicated that the first webinar was primarily an organizational meeting, with the group also addressing a list of issues including:

- Yellowtail snapper management
- Mutton snapper management
- Commercial grouper harvest in Monroe County
- Establishing a special management unit that allows for consistent state/federal fishery regulations across the south Florida area
- Allocation of fisheries landings in Monroe County

He told the Committee that the State of Florida representatives had volunteered to take the lead in moving this effort forward.

Jessica McCawley indicated that her agency has been working on a number of these issues and they were ready to plan and hold five workshops to allow the fishing constituency an opportunity to make their opinion's known.

4. Address Council “Follow-up” and priorities

Bob Mahood provided the Committee with background as to how the Council/NMFS Regional Operating Agreement (Follow-Up) evolved. Gregg Waugh briefed the committee on two documents provided for their consideration, the Follow-Up and an action priority form. He explained how the Follow-Up is developed and the interactions between the Council and the SERO staff in completing the operations document. Gregg reviewed where the Council stood on meeting the priorities for the current ongoing amendments and other actions that were established at the September 2012 Council meeting. He pointed out the schedule has been very full, but most of the top priorities have already been accomplished. Committee members were asked to review the action priority form and rank the various on-going Council actions. The intent was the members fill out the form and return it to Gregg where he will report the results to the Council for discussion.

5. Other Business

Chairman Cupka briefed the committee on the February 2013 CCC meeting held in Silver Spring, MD. He kept his remarks to a minimum and indicated that staff would send the minutes of the CCC meeting to Council members when they became available.

There were no motions.