

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT – EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**December 6 & 8, 2016**  
**Atlantic Beach, NC**

The agenda was adopted, and the minutes of the September 2016 meeting were approved.

National Standard 1 Guidelines Final Rule

The final rule for the National Standard 1 Guidelines was published on October 18, 2016. Erin Schnettler, Fisheries Management Specialist, NMFS HQ, gave the committee a presentation of the changes. A number of questions were asked about the phase-in and carry over provisions.

Electronic Reporting Project Proposals

Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, gave the committee a brief overview of 3 proposals submitted for consideration under the Electronic Monitoring/Electronic Reporting Funds (Private Recreational Permit/Reporting, For-Hire Outreach, and Scamp Discards). We had hoped that the scamp project would be funded and this would be the kick-starter project for our Citizen Science Program. Unfortunately, the scamp project did not make it past the first cut, and we are seeking alternative funding. The good news is that the two remaining projects are being considered for funding through this competitive process. We will know the results in late December or in January.

CY 2016 Budget Expenditures

Mike Collins, Administrative Officer, gave the committee an overview of expenditures on the CY 2016 budget through most of November and a projection of expected expenses for the remainder of the year.

Draft CY 2017 Budget

Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, reviewed the preliminary draft 2017 budget; the budget is based on the draft SEDAR 2017 and draft Council 2017 activity schedules. We were over on the SEDAR budget, and Council staff met with Dr. Bonnie Ponwith to discuss ways to reduce the 2017 costs. Revisions reduced the activities down to a level within the expected SEDAR funding. A revised preliminary draft 2017 budget was distributed to the Committee showing these revisions. In addition, the need for an additional staff position to address (1) ecosystem-based fishery management, (2) ocean noise strategy, (3) climate change effects, and (4) allocation triggers is shown. Existing staff resources are not available to achieve these 4 activities. The cost for a Citizen Science Coordinator and Program Development is also shown. The Committee approved by consensus staff providing this budget to NMFS as an indication of our funding needs for 2017.

The Citizen Science Committee requested the Council provide funding to hire an outreach staff person on a contractual basis as an interim solution to provide time for Amber Von Harten to work as Citizen Science Coordinator. Mr. Waugh stated that he and Mr. Collins discussed how to best address this request and told the Committee that they would work this into the budget; the expected expenditures are less than we expended in 2016. The intent is to include this position in the budget the Committee reviews at the March 2017 meeting, and they felt this could be

accomplished within the same general amount as the 2016 budget. We should have information on our funding for the March 2017 Council meeting, and we will approve the budget once we know our funding level.

#### Council Follow-Up and 2016 Priorities

Myra Brouwer, Acting Deputy Executive Director for Management, gave the committee an overview of the Council Follow-Up from the September 2016 meeting. The Follow-Up contains the detailed steps for each active amendment and amendments under formal review. This allows any Council member to see where each amendment is in the process. The follow-up is updated after each Council meeting after review and input from the SERO and Council staff. In addition, draft agendas are included for the upcoming Council meetings. This allows Council members to see what is on the agenda and make any suggestions to the Chair and staff.

The 2016 Priorities were adjusted to address CMP Amendment 30, golden tilefish, for-hire limited entry, commercial electronic logbook, and ABC control rule amendment. The Committee discussed the priorities and provided guidance on changes and directed staff to bring revisions to the full Council on Friday.

#### Standards and Procedures for Webinar Meetings

The committee deferred discussions to the January 2017 meeting.

*No Motions were approved by the committee.*

#### Draft Timing & Tasks Motion

**MOTION #1: ACCEPT THE TIMING AND TASK AS SHOWN**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**DIRECT STAFF TO DO THE FOLLOWING:**

- A. PROVIDE THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT 2017 BUDGET TO NMFS AS AN INDICATION OF OUR FUNDING NEEDS FOR 2017.
- B. PREPARE A REVISED DRAFT 2017 BUDGET FOR THE MARCH 2017 MEETING.
- C. PREPARE A REVISED 2017-2018 PRIORITIES LIST.
- D. PREPARE THE WEBINAR MEETING GUIDELINES FOR REVIEW AT THE MARCH 2017 MEETING.

**MOTION #2: APPROVE THE MODIFIED 2017-18 PRIORITIES**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

This concludes my report.