

OVERVIEW

Executive Finance Committee Meeting

Westin Jekyll Island
110 Ocean Way
Jekyll Island, GA

March 9, 2017

A. Council Coordinating Committee (CCC)

The CCC is meeting February 28-March 1 and the agenda, with links to the briefing material, is included (**Attachment 1a**). We will have a CCC report (**Attachment 1b**) for presentation to the Council; however, the CCC report will not be available until during our Council meeting. Given that the CCC meeting occurs the week prior to the Council meeting, Dr. Duval has authorized distribution of the CCC Report during our Council meeting. The CCC Report will also be posted to our website prior to the public comment period on Wednesday during the March Council meeting.

Committee Action: discuss, provide guidance, and take action as necessary.

B. Status of CY 2016 Expenditure

Mike Collins, Administrative Officer, will give the committee an overview of Final CY 2016 expenditures (**Attachment 2**).

Committee Action: discuss, provide guidance, and take action as necessary.

C. Draft CY 2017 Budget

Mike Collins, Administrative Officer, will give the committee overviews of:

1. Draft SEDAR 2017 Activity Schedule (**Attachment 3a**)
2. Draft Council 2017 Activity Schedule (**Attachment 3b**)
3. Draft CY 2017 Budget (based on the activity schedules) (**Attachment 3c**)

Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, will discuss the draft budget and guidance received from the CCC meeting. If we have sufficient detail on our funding level for the March Council meeting, the Committee/Council could approve the budget. If not, we will use this draft budget as a guide until we get sufficient information on our funding level so that the Committee/Council would feel comfortable approving the budget.

Committee Action: discuss, provide guidance, and take action as necessary.

D. Council Follow-Up and 2016 Priorities

Dr. Chip Collier, Acting Deputy Director for Management, will give the committee an overview of the Council Follow-Up (**Attachment 4a**) and the 2016-18 Priorities (**Attachment 4b**) as approved at the December 2016 meeting along with any suggested edits. 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 next two upcoming Council meetings. This allows Council members to see what is on the agenda and make any suggestions to the Chair and staff. The Committee

should discuss the priorities, make any necessary additions/modifications, and approve the revised priorities.

Committee Action: discuss, modify as necessary, and approve the revised 2016-18 Priorities.

E. Standards and Procedures for participating in Council webinar meetings (Attachment 5)

Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, will give the committee an overview of draft standards and procedures for webinar meetings.

Committee Action: discuss and provide guidance.

F. Letter to NOAA Concerning MRIP Landings (Attachment 6)

The Committee had an extensive discussion about this topic during the September 2017 Executive Finance Committee meeting and mentioned some issues to be addressed:

1. How one intercept can have a large impact on the resulting catch estimate?
2. The cumulative species-specific impacts of unusually large MRIP landings estimates (and discard estimates) on our recreational fisheries and the Council process.
3. How catches of rare species are estimated?
4. The problem is not limited to rare species (e.g., cobia).

The Council approved the following motion:

COUNCIL WRITE AN OPEN LETTER TO NOAA OUTLINING THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF SPECIES-SPECIFIC ESTIMATES OF UNUSUALLY LARGE/SMALL MRIP LANDINGS AND THE IMPACTS ON THE COUNCIL PROCESS

- INTENT TO BRING BACK IN DECEMBER FOR REVIEW
- INTENT TO INCLUDE LANDINGS AND DISCARDS

John Carmichael, Deputy Director for Science & Statistics, will give the committee an overview of the issue and the draft letter.

Committee Action: discuss and provide guidance.