

**Final**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Full Council Session I (Closed Session)**  
**December 2, 2024**

The Council met in Closed Session on Monday, December 2, 2024, and discussed the following items:

**Advisory Panel Policy**

Edits were approved to the Council's Advisory Panel Policy to better define the role of liaisons appointed to advisory panels. The Council also discussed options for conducting law enforcement background checks for AP applicants. The current process is conducted through NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement and only evaluates federal fishery violations. The Council did not make any changes in the application or background check process at this time. Further discussion will be held at the March 2025 meeting, including a review of eligibility criteria used by the states for state advisory panel members.

**Review of Applications and Recommendations for Appointment**

The Council reviewed applicants for open seats on the For-Hire Reporting, Law Enforcement, Mackerel Cobia, Snapper Grouper, Shrimp, and Spiny Lobster Advisory Panels and *provided the following draft motions as recommendations for consideration by the Council during open session:*

MOTION: APPOINT KEVIN DEZERN, MARK PHELPS, JAMES SKINNER, RICHARD STOUGHTON, AND MELISSA LEONE TO THE FOR-HIRE REPORTING ADVISORY PANEL.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT ADAM NOWALSKI AS THE MAFMC REPRESENTATIVE AND BRIAN BACON AS THE NEFMC REPRESENTATIVE ON THE FOR-HIRE REPORTING AP. ALSO APPOINT BRIAN BACON AS THE NEFMC REPRESENTATIVE ON THE DOLPHIN WAHOO AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT ROB BEATON TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: REAPPOINT WILLIAM JONES AND JOHN MALLETTE TO THE MACKEREL COBIA AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT MICHAEL OPPEGAARD, MELISSA LEONE, AND STEVE SAUNDERS TO THE MACKEREL COBIA AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: ADD A SEAT TO THE MACKEREL COBIA AP AND APPOINT SANFORD CARTER.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: REAPPOINT PAUL NELSON (FL) AND RANDY MCKINLEY (NC) TO THE SNAPPER GROUPE AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT K.P SCOTT (NC), JEFF MARINKO (GA), AND JON BRAUN (GA) TO THE SNAPPER GROUPE AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT BRYAN JONES TO THE SHRIMP AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT CASEY BUTLER, JOHN CRAMER, CINDY GARB, AND CHRISTOPHER OETIJEN TO THE SPINY LOBSTER AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT ANDY PILAND TO THE SEDAR POOL.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: APPOINT DAVID MOSS TO THE CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS AP.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION: REMOVE STEVE DOUGHERTY FROM THE OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS AP DUE TO LACK OF ATTENDANCE AND ADVERTISE THE OPEN SEAT FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE JUNE 2025 COUNCIL MEETING.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

The Council discussed the selection process for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and provided the following suggestions:

- Consider changing the name of the award to the “Law Enforcement Award of Excellence” and do not require that it be awarded annually. Instead, the award will be made in years when an officer or team are to be acknowledged for going “above and beyond” their duty in enforcing fisheries regulations.
- Discuss proposed changes with the Law Enforcement AP.
- Explore creating a rubric to select among nominees.

### **DIRECTION TO STAFF**

- Schedule a closed session of the Full Council for the March 2025 meeting to further consider handling background checks and outcomes. Contact state agencies to obtain

language used for establishing eligibility to serve as advisors or in other appointed roles prior to the March 2025 meeting.

- Have paper copies of the advisory panel application form available at stakeholder meetings for those interested in applying.
- Send notification letters to appointees and email notifications to those not selected by December 20, 2024.
- Conduct an orientation for new AP members before the March 2025 SAFMC meeting.
- Convene the Law Enforcement AP in Spring 2025