

**FINAL SUMMARY REPORT
EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
ATLANTIC BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 10, 2015**

The Executive Finance Committee met on December 10, 2015 in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. The minutes from the June 2014 Executive Finance Committee were approved. The Committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

1. CY 2015 budget expenditures

Mike Collins briefed the Committee on the Council's expenditures for CY2015. He noted that we are in good shape for CY2015 because of the savings in the health insurance plan costs as well as other cost savings related to the use of webinars. We have not been given a budget level for 2016, but are expecting level funding from CY2015. Development of the Council's CY2016 has begun but will not be completed until we have an idea of what level of funding the Councils will receive.

2. Council activities and accomplishments 2015

Bob Mahood provided the Committee members with an overview of the activities undertaken by the Council during 2015. He pointed out the Council efforts resulted in 30 major actions being addressed, with six amendments being implemented by the Secretary of Commerce, six additional amendments approved by the Council currently undergoing Secretarial review and eighteen actions currently under development. It has been one the more active years in the history of the South Atlantic Council. Bob also pointed to the successful snapper grouper visioning work that was conducted this year. Ben Hartig spoke to the Citizen Science initiative undertaken by the Council and the progress to-date in planning and organizing the Citizen Science Workshop.

3. Council Follow-Up and priorities

Gregg Waugh provided a short overview of the Council's Follow-Up document. He then called the committee's attention to Attachment 3B (the priority amendment slot table). He briefed the Council on the current priorities that have been established by the Council and pointed out the open time slots for additional actions. Council Chair Duval provided more background on potential actions and led the committee through an extensive related discussion. Based on the committee discussion, Gregg was asked to modify the Attachment 3B table and bring it back to the full Council. Chair Duval asked all of the members to think about the potential priority actions and be prepared to make a decision at the Council session.

4. Participation in webinar meetings

Bob briefed the committee on the intent of staff to start drafting policies and procedures relative to participation in Council webinars. The draft language would then be brought back to the Council for consideration. NOAA GC Monica Smit-Brunello volunteered to help staff with drafting the language.

5. Eight RFMCs representation in Washington, DC

Bob informed the committee of the intent to enter into a contract with Mr. Dave Whaley as part of the eight Regional Fishery Management Council's effort to have representation in Washington, DC. He provided background on Mr. Whaley and the services he would provide to the Councils.

Motions: There were no committee motions.

Council motion: Approve the priorities as modified (approved by the Council)