

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SOPPs COMMITTEE

**Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel
Orlando, FL**

June 9, 2008

SUMMARY MINUTES

SOPPs Committee Members:

George Geiger, Chair
Susan Shipman

David Cupka
Duane Harris

Council Members:

Robert Boyles
Mac Currin
John Wallace
Lt. Brian Sullivan

Dr. Wilson Laney
Rita Merritt
Tom Swatzel
Dr. Brian Chevront

Council Staff:

Bob Mahood
Mike Collins

Gregg Waugh
Kim Iverson

Observers/Participants:

Monica Smit-Brunello
Margot Stiles

Dr. Joe Kimmel
Kate Michie

The SOPPs Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Vienna Ballroom of the Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel, Orlando, Florida, Monday afternoon, June 9, 2008, and was called to order at 1:00 o'clock p.m. by Chairman George Geiger.

Mr. Geiger: I would like to welcome everybody to Florida. Welcome to Orlando. Again, I didn't realize it before, but it's very intimidating to chair this committee when you have a combined service on the council of seventy-one years with all the old heads that are on this -- You didn't let me finish. You know how I always make exceptions for Susan, who started her career at the tender age of eight.

We'll call the meeting of the SOPPs Committee to order and all members of the committee are present and the first order of business is approval of our agenda. Can I get a motion to approve the agenda? We've got a motion. Second? Can we get a second to approve the agenda? We have a second and seeing no opposition, so moved.

The next order of business is the Approval of the March 2008 SOPPs Committee minutes and, of course, we're kind of in the same boat as we are this time. Any opposition to approving the minutes? Any corrections? Any deletions? Seeing none, the minutes are approved. The next order of business is the perennial Status of the Secretarial Review of Council SOPPs and I'll turn it over to Bob, for the good news.

Mr. Mahood: As you probably noted already in your briefing book, we had not received anything at the point when the briefing book went out. I talked to Bill Chappell as late as this morning and there is nothing. The proposed rule on the changes to the SOPPs has not cleared and it's expected that it will not clear, under the new moratorium for proposed rules, primarily because it doesn't deal with ending overfishing.

I asked him where that left us and he said they would probably try to develop some guidance to the councils on what they would like to see in the SOPPs separate from the proposed rule and so we are waiting. I told him to let us know and we'll put it back on the agenda. We've had it on the agenda for two years and we can continue in that vein, Mr. Chairman. With that, there's really nothing for the council to do.

Mr. Geiger: I guess that's a rather noteworthy accomplishment. During the two years that I've been chairman, we haven't been able to take action in this committee on an action item. That's pretty interesting. Any other business?

Ms. Shipman: That's why I resigned in protest. If we weren't going to do anything in two years, why be on the committee?

Mr. Geiger: Try it again next meeting. No other business? Any objection to adjourning? We stand adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 1:06 o'clock p.m., June 9, 2008.)

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

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