

DRAFT
SUMMARY REPORT
EXECUTIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Webinar
October 15, 2019

The Committee approved minutes from the September 2019 meeting and the agenda. The following topics were addressed:

I. REVIEW 2019 BUDGET YEAR

Kelly Klasnick, Administrative Officer, presented an overview of the 2019 and 2020 budgets and the status of year-to-date expenditures for 2019. The Council approved the 2019 Budget at the June 2019 meeting. In August, there was an approved change in the outreach position that resulted in an increase in the budget amounts related to staff. There was a question about the cost and effectiveness of sending a representative to the ICATT meeting.

II. REVIEW NEW 5-YEAR GRANT (CY 2020-2024)

Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, and Kelly Klasnick, Administrative Officer, updated the committee on the status of the 5-year (2020-2024) grant application and reviewed the cost by year. Based upon guidance received, the 2020 budget is to maintain level funding with the 2019 total, with each subsequent year increasing by up to 10%. We used 10% to give us the largest potential ceiling for funding. Actual funding amounts will be determined by NMFS each year and will differ from the projected amounts shown for years 2021-2024.

The grant application was sent to NMFS on 8/20/19. We included information indicating the estimated cost of support provided by each State. The application is being reviewed by NMFS; if any edits are needed the application package will be returned to SAFMC for updating and resubmission. The application will then be sent to the Grants Management Division (GMD) by Nov 1st; NMFS should do this step. Then funds will be released to us on or before January 1, 2020. If additional funds become available during the 2020-2024 grant period, consideration will be given to increasing the State liaison grants to offset more of the State-provided support.

In response to a question, it was pointed out that cost for ICATT and HMS are included. Gregg stated that he estimated the costs shown for South Carolina based on previous activities through the State liaison grant.

III. REVIEW 2020 ACTIVITY SCHEDULES

Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, and Kelly Klasnick, Administrative Officer, discussed the activity schedules. The activity schedules have been drafted to reflect Council priorities and this determines Council compensation, meeting related expenses, and travel expenses. The Council approves the Council activity schedule and the SEDAR Steering Committee approves the SEDAR activity schedule. The SEDAR activity schedule is included as information for the Council to use as the South Atlantic Council administers the SEDAR program.

There was a question about activity related to this issue of fish moving northwards; this was shown separately in 2019, however, 2020, it is included in the general travel category.

IV. REVIEW DRAFT CALENDARY YEAR (CY) JANUARY-DECEMBER 2020 OPERATIONAL BUDGET

Kelly Klasnick, Administrative Officer, and Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, presented a draft Calendar Year (CY; January-December) 2020. There are two major inputs: (1) fixed costs – staff, office-related, state liaison grants, and some contracts; and (2) variable costs – driven by the activity schedules. The activity schedules have been drafted to reflect Council priorities and this determines Council compensation, meeting related expenses, and travel expenses. The Council indicated they want to begin each calendar year with an approved budget. This requires the Council to identify activities for the following year at each September meeting. Council staff then prepares a draft budget for the Executive Finance Committee to review and provide guidance in October. There will be an opportunity to see this again at each December committee meeting. The Council will approve the budget at each December meeting.

The Committee reviewed and approved the draft 2020 budget (see motion below).

V. NO-COST EXTENSION

Gregg Waugh, Executive Director, and Kelly Klasnick, Administrative Officer, discussed the no-cost extension to the Council's current 5-year grant (CY2015-2019). Administrative procedures allow the Council to request a no-cost extension for work that was scheduled for completion during the current grant period. This cannot be for new items. The government closure resulted in a significant number of activities being rescheduled. There was considerable concern about the new MRIP numbers and this required additional review by the Council's SSC and discussion by the Council, all conducted in 2019. In addition, the Council has been working on improved access to regulations by commercial fishermen. The current App provides access to pdf documents which is not as user friendly as the recreational App. The Council has been exploring ways to improve access by commercial fishermen but was not able to complete this work during the current grant. Given these items are a continuation of work under the current grant, they are eligible for the no-cost extension.

The Committee reviewed and approved the no-cost extension (see motion below).

Other Business

David Whitaker suggested the Council consider a Lifetime Research Award to recognize individuals that have done significant work that supports the Council's work.

Motions:

MOTION #1: Approve the draft 2020 operational budget as presented.

Approved by Committee

MOTION # 2: Approve the no-cost extension as presented.

Approved by Committee

Direction to Staff:

1. Contact Chris Moore, MAFMC Executive Director, and let him know the SAFMC will be sending a liaison to their December Council meeting. John Carmichael will be the staff lead on this effort.