



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Acting Chair | Mel Bell, Acting Vice Chair
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2018

The Council's priorities for 2017/18 are included as Attachment 4b in TAB 9, Executive Finance Committee. Detailed information on the status of each FMP/Amendment and upcoming meetings is contained in the Council Follow-Up (Attachment 4a in TAB 9, Executive Finance Committee). There will be a number of new items and potential modifications to timing that need to be accommodated within our list of priorities, so we will need to discuss them and get guidance on modifications to the Council's priorities.

Also, in Executive Finance we will finally be able to approve our general and SEDAR budgets (see Attachments 2a and 2b in TAB 9, Executive Finance Committee) that includes the items approved by the Council in December 2017 to reduce our costs in 2018. We received essentially level funding in 2018 (same base level as 2017) plus approximately \$100,000 additional funding for regulatory reform.

The recreational workshop will provide the opportunity to address the high level of recreational discards. The ASA group hired Dr. Kari MacLauchlin-Buck to facilitate the workshop and to conduct one workshop in each state. They will present recommendations to the Council at the March 2019 meeting.

This has been a very busy time since our June 2018 Council meeting with a number of scoping meetings, coordination work on our charter vessel reporting amendment, SEDAR activities, and the red snapper seasons. Work on MyFishCount continued and reports were provided immediately after both weekends (see Attachments 2a/2b in TAB 10, Full Council). Citizen Science work continued and the operations committee met to develop additional details (see Attachment 4 in TAB 10, Full Council). Outreach work to prepare for the expected mandatory charter vessel reporting on January 1, 2019 continued (see Attachment 3 in TAB 10, Full Council). We are also continuing our move to an electronic newsletter and a status report will be given during the Council session.

Our audit was completed with only good things being said. Thanks and congratulations to Mike Collins, Cindy Chaya, Kimberly Cole, and Suzanna Thomas, we are lucky to have such a super administrative staff.

Also, we have four new Council members that will be attending their first meeting in September. Their in-house orientation is scheduled for September 5-6, 2018 and national orientation is scheduled for November 14-16, 2018. Work is ongoing to appoint a new member after Captain Mark Brown resigned from the Council; we expect to have them appointed for the December 2018 meeting.

Finally, as you know Mike Collins will be retiring at the end of December 2018 and we will miss his steady hand, calm demeanor, and ability to search out cost savings. We will be conducting interviews during the week of September 10-14, 2018 and expect to have someone onboard by October 15, 2018. This will allow them to experience SSC and AP meetings, to spend time with Mike and our staff for training, and to go through one Council meeting.