



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jessica McCawley, Chair | Mel Bell, Vice Chair
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT DECEMBER 2019

The Council's approved priorities for 2019 and 2020 are included as Attachment 3a in TAB 2, Executive Finance Committee. Detailed information on the status of each FMP/Amendment and upcoming meetings is contained in the Council Follow-Up (Attachment 3b in TAB 2, Executive Finance Committee). Under the direction of the Council Chair, Jessica McCawley, the Council will now set annual priorities at the September meeting. This will allow the Executive Finance Committee to review a budget in October that the Council will review and approve at the December meeting each year (Attachment 2b in TAB 2, Executive Finance Committee). This will give the Council an approved budget going into each new year.

The South Atlantic Council co-hosted the November 5-7, 2019 Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting in Washington, DC. Please look over the draft report (Attachment 1 in TAB 2, Executive Finance Committee) and be prepared to provide any guidance for topics to be addressed at the May 2020 CCC meeting. This is your opportunity to make sure the CCC is addressing issues important to the South Atlantic Council's operations.

Also, in Executive Finance we will develop comments on some NMFS guidance documents and reports (Attachments 4a-4d in TAB 2, Executive Finance). Please take a look at these documents and the SSC/Staff comments; this is your opportunity to provide input as we will be sending in comment letters in December after the Council meeting.

Once again, this has been an extremely busy time since our September 2019 Council meeting for Council, NMFS, and NOAA GC staffs. Council staff continued to work on amendments, rescheduling meetings/workshops, conducted scoping/hearings, and conducted AP meetings. Work on MyFishCount and Citizen Science continued. Planning is underway for the upcoming January 2020 webinar Council meeting. We produced our fourth electronic newsletter; congratulations to our super Outreach Staff.

This is my last ED's Report and last Council meeting. Wow, what an experience this has been over the past 39 years. I started as a contract employee with a desk in the storage room. We didn't use computers; staff wrote out their documents, gave them to one of our two secretaries who would type them into a word processor. Thankfully, NMFS provided an Apple II computer through the State/Federal Cooperative Statistics Program, which I quickly grabbed. It has been an honor to have worked with all the fishermen, Council members, State partners, Council staffs, NMFS/NOAA GC staffs, NGOs, fishing organizations, other partners like ACCSP, and members of the public.

Thanks, and Good Bye!