



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston SC 29405
Call: (843) 571-4366 | Toll-Free: (866) SAFMC-10 | Fax: (843) 769-4520 | Connect: www.safmc.net

Charlie Phillips, Chair | Captain Mark Brown, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT MARCH 2018

The **Council's priorities for 2017/18** are included as Attachment 3b in TAB 11, Executive Finance Committee. Detailed information on the status of each FMP/Amendment and upcoming meetings is contained in the **Council Follow-Up** (Attachment 3a in TAB 11, Executive Finance Committee). There will be a number of new items 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 be looking at a draft 2018 budget (see Attachment 2b in TAB 11, Executive Finance Committee) that includes the items approved by the Council in December 2017 to reduce our costs in 2018. We will likely not know our 2018 funding level until the June 2018 meeting, but we need to get the Council's guidance on activities (see Attachments 2d and 2e in TAB 11, Executive Finance Committee). In the interim, we will be operating under the draft 2018 budget. Council staff was asked to break-out Outreach Costs. Outreach staff salary costs are included in the general budget as is some level of equipment/travel. Printing and other costs are shown in Attachment 2c (in TAB 11, Executive Finance Committee), and staff will review some potential changes to how these funds could be spent to allow for more outreach as requested by the Council.

We were requested to provide comments on the Senate MSA Bill (see Attachment 1h in TAB 11, Executive Finance Committee).

Charlie, Mark, and I will be attending the Council Coordinating Committee (CCC) meeting February 27-28, 2018 and a report will be available at the March Council meeting. During that meeting, the three of us will meet with our counterparts from the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils to talk about how we address species (data collection, assessment, and management) as they continue to shift their distribution northwards. This is an effort Michelle Duval initiated with the Mid-Atlantic Council's leadership.

This has been a busy time since our December 2017 Council meeting. Public hearings on Atlantic Cobia and scoping meetings on Spiny Lobster were conducted via webinar and listening stations with Council members present during January 2018. Outreach training about the reporting requirements in our charterboat reporting amendment were conducted in North Carolina in January and will be held in Florida in February. MREP and the National SSC meetings kept our staff and SSC members busy as well. A very productive meeting of the Socio-Economic Panel of the SSC was held in Charleston in February.

I have included a folder with our correspondence thus far in 2018. Please let me know if you have any questions about any of these.

Finally, we have two individuals that will be leaving us this year. The March 2018 meeting will be Michelle Duval's last Council meeting and we wish her well after her many years of service to the Council; she will be missed. 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.