

OVERVIEW
SSC Selection Committee
December 2014

Item to be discussed at this meeting: SSC Policies.

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes

The Committee last met September 2014.

3. SSC Policies

A. Overview

At the previous meeting the Committee directed staff to draft modifications of the SSC operating procedures to clarify the SSC appointment process and consider designating state agency representation.

SOPPs modifications will be discussed at this meeting and considered for approval in March 2015.

Existing SSC guidance information:

- SAFMC SOPPS, June 2011 version
 - Establishes the SSC and gives a charge
- SAFMC SSC Policy, September 2006 version
 - States duties and objectives
 - Addresses terms, termination, appointments
 - Includes some information also covered in the SOPPS
 - Document is out of date and does not reflect current practices
- SAFMC SSC Job Description, June 2011 version
 - Provides further details on SSC tasks and responsibilities
 - Includes information from the SSC Policy, MSA, and SEDAR
 - Does not address administrative issues (e.g., appointments)

Current Membership & Appointment Process

- SSC consists of 18 members
 - No 'designated' seats of any kind
- Members serve 3 year terms without term limits
 - Terms are staggered, with 1/3 ending each year
- Applicants are reviewed by the SSC Selection Committee and appointed by the Council.
 - Applications reviewed at the June meeting
 - Application package consists of a cover letter, financial disclosure and resume.
 - Background checks are not conducted
 - Applications are not retained. Those not appointed must reapply the following year if interested.

- Staff maintains a list of possible candidates, including those interested in reapplying the next year or those who come forward during the year and express interest in joining
- Appointment Notices
 - SAFMC website, newsletter
 - Memo to existing SSC members, Council members, Staff
 - Free news groups and list servers
 - AFS Marine Fisheries Section and Southern Division
 - NOAA in the Carolinas
 - Reminder to apply sent to “possible candidates” list as noted above
 - Annual process, becoming subject to ‘familiarity burn-out’.
 - Responses from news group-type advertisements have declined over time under the annual appointment process.
- Standing Socio-Economic Panel serves as an SSC Sub-Committee
 - Appointment process is same as SSC
 - Length of terms not specified

SSC Meetings

- Two regularly scheduled meetings: April and October
- Workshops on special topics as needed, typically in conjunction with regular meetings
- Webinar or conference call meetings on demand

Options for Policy Changes

- Update the SAFMC SOPPS or SAMFC SSC Policy to reflect existing appointment process and SSC membership terms
- Publish notification of accepting applications in the Federal Register
- Establish designated seats for state agency representatives
- Modify language in SOPPS indicating that the SSC will meet with the Council “as practical”
- Establish regular webinar meetings between the current in-person meetings, to occur prior to the March and September SAFMC meetings
 - Timing – 4-6 weeks prior to meeting, or after BB materials are complete?
- SSC Recommendation: convene ad-hoc subgroups to address specific FMP analyses when FMP development timing requires such items to be considered outside of regularly scheduled SSC meetings, and when the basic approach for the analysis has been reviewed previously by the FMP. An example is a bag limit evaluation applied to a specific stock using accepted evaluation methods.
- SSC Application retention: should applications be kept ‘on file’?
 - Document management and Privacy concerns?
 - Expiration date?
 - Verify continued interest?
 - Updates of CV and financial disclosure?
- SSC Vacancies
 - Filled as they occur, or remain until the next regular appointment event?
 - If state agency seats are designated, fill those vacancies as occur.

B. Action

- Review and provide guidance on SSC SOPPs

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

5. **ADJOURN**