

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 21, 2022

(MEETING HELD VIA WEBINAR)

The South Atlantic Council's Executive Committee met via webinar on November 21, 2022. The Committee approved the meeting agenda.

Closed Session

The Committee discussed personnel and contract budget items addressed in the draft budget. The Committee approved linking future changes in the SSC and AP Chair stipends to the Federal Budget COLA, as is done for Council Member stipends. The Committee recommended retaining Charlie Phillips as the LWTRT representative and Chester Brewer as the ICCAT and HMS representative.

Budget and Activity Schedule Review

Kelly Klasnick provided an overview of the 2022 budget and expenditures and a proposed draft budget for 2023. Expenditures during 2022 are below budget, due to lower than anticipated travel expenses related to continuing use of remote meeting options. The proposed 2023 budget slightly exceeds assumed status quo funding for 2023 and the 2022 budget, due largely to increased contractual expenses related to ongoing projects such as the MSE. Contractual expenses for the 2023 budget also include a temporary, one-year increase in the state liaison grants. These are temporary expenses that can be covered over the short term by the budget savings of recent years. The Committee did not consider the predicted overage a significant risk because the Council activity schedule typically overestimates actual travel expenses and 2022 expenditures will likely fall under budget. The committee approved the draft 2023 budget. The budget will be revised if 2023 funding is significantly different than assumed.

Workplan Review

John Carmichael reviewed the 2022-2023 workplan and discussed how the workplan is used to guide the annual Activity Schedule and draft budget. The workload for 2023 is manageable across most Council meetings. The Committee recommended asking the Council to consider delaying the Dolphin longline amendment until the SEFSC Dolphin MSE is completed and additional information can be obtained on the Atlantic-wide Dolphin stock and fisheries. Dolphin may also be a topic to consider through the climate Scenario Planning project.

MOTIONS

MOTION # 1: APPROVE THE DRAFT 2023 OPERATIONAL BUDGET AS PRESENTED AND MODIFIED.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL