

Administrative/Budget Committee: Action Schedule & Next Steps for Tab G

Agenda Item IV: Approval of Final 2017 Budget Funding

Timeline Status: Council reviewed a draft of the 2017 budget based on projected funding in April, but we have not been provided our total 2017 funding level by NMFS due to delays in passing the federal budget. The Council needs to approve our final 2017 budget once we obtain the actual funding level from NMFS. We currently have sufficient funds to operate through July.

Council Input and Next Steps: Because we have not received our final funding levels from NMFS as of May 26, 2017, we will bring the final 2017 budget back to the Council in August for official approval.

Agenda Item V: Review of H.R. 200 and H.R. 2023 (MSA Reauthorization) Potential Impacts {Tab G, No. 5a(1) and 5b(1)}

Timeline Status: Bills H.R. 200 and 2023 have been introduced into committee and have a number of items directly pertinent to the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA General Counsel has advised the Councils they could no longer indicate to Congress preferences for particular sections of a bill, but rather, should only comment on the potential impacts of proposed legislation.

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff has drafted a summary of potential impacts of each section of the bills for Council consideration. Each bill has a number of sections directly related to the Gulf of Mexico. The Council should provide guidance for any needed revisions to these staff analyses, in the event the Chair or Executive Director is called upon by Congress to provide written or verbal testimony on these bills.
