

1 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2
3 ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET COMMITTEE

4
5 Hyatt Centric New Orleans, Louisiana

6
7 January 29, 2018

8
9 **VOTING MEMBERS**

- 10 Paul Mickle (designee for Joe Spraggins).....Mississippi
- 11 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- 12 Tom Frazer.....Florida
- 13 Johnny Greene.....Alabama
- 14 Robin Riechers.....Texas
- 15 John Sanchez.....Florida
- 16 Chris Schieble (designee for Patrick Banks).....Louisiana
- 17 Bob Shipp.....Alabama

18
19 **NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

- 20 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
- 21 Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- 22 Doug Boyd.....Texas
- 23 Glenn Constant.....USFWS
- 24 Roy Crabtree.....NMFS
- 25 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- 26 Phil Dyskow.....Florida
- 27 Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
- 28 Campo Matens.....Louisiana
- 29 Greg Stunz.....Texas
- 30 Ed Swindell.....Louisiana
- 31 LT Mark Zanowicz.....USCG

32
33 **STAFF**

- 34 Steven Atran.....Senior Fishery Biologist
- 35 Assane Diagne.....Economist
- 36 Douglas Gregory.....Executive Director
- 37 Karen Hoak.....Administrative & Financial Assistant
- 38 Morgan Kilgour.....Fishery Biologist
- 39 Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
- 40 Mary Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
- 41 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- 42 Carrie Simmons.....Deputy Director

43
44 **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

- 45 Lucas Bissett.....New Orleans, LA
- 46 Ryan Bradley.....Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United, MS
- 47 Eric Brazer.....Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance
- 48 J.P. Brooker.....Ocean Conservancy, St. Petersburg, FL

1 Traci Floyd.....MDMR, Biloxi, MS
2 Troy Frady.....AL
3 Susan Gerhart.....NMFS
4 Joelle Godwin.....NMFS
5 Ken Haddad.....ASA, FL
6 Chad Hanson.....Pew Charitable Trusts
7 Scott Hickman.....Galveston, TX
8 Dylan Hubbard.....FL
9 Peter Jarvis.....Southeastern Fisheries Association, FL
10 Alison Johnson.....Oceana
11 Bill Kelly.....FKCFA
12 Franklin Parker.....Biloxi, MS
13 Charlie Phillips.....SAFMC
14 Clay Porch.....SEFSC
15 Ashford Rosenberg.....Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance
16 Ruth White.....Pew Charitable Trusts
17 Jim Zurbrick.....Steinhatchee, FL

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19
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1 The Administrative/Budget Committee of the Gulf of Mexico
2 Fishery Management Council convened at the Hyatt Centric, New
3 Orleans, Louisiana, Monday morning, January 29, 2018, and was
4 called to order by Chairman Paul Mickle.
5

6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
9

10 **CHAIRMAN PAUL MICKLE:** I would like to convene the
11 Administrative/Budget Committee, and I would like to note, on
12 the record, that the members that were here a few minutes ago,
13 and they will be here again, is Robin Riechers, Kevin Anson,
14 Doug Boyd, Camp Matens, myself, and Mr. Swindell.
15

16 With that, I will go to the Adoption of the Agenda, Tab G,
17 Number 1, if everybody could pull that up and give it a look-
18 over, and I will need a motion. Mr. Gregory.
19

20 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOUG GREGORY:** I just wanted to point out
21 that, last Friday, I added an item to the agenda on the Marine
22 Resource Education Program, and so, if you have an old agenda,
23 that will not be on there, but there it is there.
24

25 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you. Anyone else? Is there a motion?
26

27 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** I will make a motion to accept the agenda as
28 written.
29

30 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** It's seconded and approved. All right.
31 Moving on, we will go to Approval of the August 2017
32 Admin/Budget Committee Minutes, Tab G, Number 2. Is there a
33 motion to approve?
34

35 **MR. ANSON:** I will make a motion to approve the minutes as
36 written.
37

38 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** It's been seconded. They're approved. All
39 right. Let's move on to the Action Guide and Next Steps, Tab G,
40 Number 3, and Mr. Gregory.
41

42 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Thank you, Chairman. We've got the
43 three items, the Review of the Ad Hoc Advisory Panels, the
44 Discussion of SSC Organization, and a Discussion of the Marine
45 Resource Education Program.
46

47 In 2015, the council requested to review the existing ad hoc
48 advisory panels each January to determine if they needed to be

1 discontinued or any of them to be discontinued or re-advertised
2 for new members. If there is no changes, and that is in Tab G,
3 Number 4, and, if there are no changes to that, then no motions
4 are needed. If you want to re-advertise or to discontinue any
5 of those, a motion would be needed.

6
7 Then, under Tab G, Number 5, we have a discussion of SSC
8 organization. In 2015, the council combined the Standing,
9 Ecosystem, and Socioeconomic SSCs, in order to have a single
10 Standing SSC, similar to other councils, but we also added a
11 Socioeconomic SSC.

12
13 We have found that convening, and this was a problem even before
14 we combined them, and so this is not related to what we did in
15 2015, but we have found that convening the Standing and multiple
16 SSCs, special SSCs, has been a challenge, both financially and
17 logistically, and so we have provided some further restructuring
18 options for you to consider regarding the overall size of the
19 SSC.

20
21 For the council, if you want to make a change to the existing
22 structure in any way, a motion would be in order, and then Tab
23 G, Number 6 is the Marine Resource Education Program, and it's
24 just a discussion item to announce the science and management
25 workshops that are going to be held this coming year, in 2018,
26 and Chairman Bosarge will also be discussing a new MREP effort
27 of the Marine Resource Education Program Aquaculture Program,
28 and so that completes Tab G, Number 3.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you, Mr. Gregory. Is there any
31 discussion on the Action Guide and Next Steps? To continue on,
32 we will move to Item IV, Review of Ad Hoc Advisory Panels, and
33 Mr. Gregory.

34
35 **REVIEW OF AD HOC ADVISORY PANELS**

36
37 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** This is Tab G, Number 4. We have
38 three existing ad hoc panels, the Charter/For-Hire, the Reef
39 Fish Headboat, and the Red Snapper Private Angler. Then we are,
40 at this meeting, going to create an Ad Hoc Red Snapper and
41 Grouper-Tilefish IFQ Panel. In this attachment, we have a list
42 of the names of the people that are on these panels and the
43 number of meetings they have held since they were formed.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Mr. Riechers.

46
47 **MR. ROBIN RIECHERS:** Doug, I guess my question is to you. You
48 all obviously brought this up for a reason. Is it because you

1 think they have finished their business, or are you just saying
2 these are the ones that have surrounded red snapper, or reef
3 fish, and is there a chance here that we can conglomerate, or
4 what is you all's thought process here? I am assuming we didn't
5 get this tab just because you thought it was a good idea to show
6 us who we had appointed.

7
8 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** This is part of a routine annual
9 review that the council requested that we do three years ago,
10 and so there is no intention here on the part of staff.

11
12 **MR. RIECHERS:** As a follow-up then, so this is the only ad hoc
13 panels that we now have, because I know we got rid of a bunch
14 the last time we did this.

15
16 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Correct.

17
18 **MR. RIECHERS:** Okay. So these are the ones, or all, that are
19 currently in existence. All right.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Any other discussion? Mr. Boyd.

22
23 **MR. DOUG BOYD:** I just had a question for Mr. Gregory. Do we
24 need a motion to continue these, or do they just continue if we
25 don't delete any?

26
27 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** If no changes are requested, no
28 motion is necessary.

29
30 **MR. RIECHERS:** I guess, as I'm thinking about this, while I
31 think maybe some of these are winding down in their formation of
32 what they were actually formed for, in many respects, because
33 those amendments are either fairly mature or they have kind of
34 come back with a report, and we're then going to have to deal
35 with it, but I think it still behooves us to have them there, in
36 case we would need to go back to them for any particular issues
37 that we might be dealing with in the short term, as opposed to
38 doing away with them and then trying to bring them back together
39 for some reason, and that's just my two-cents' worth.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Any other discussion? All right. Thank you.
42 We will move on to Item Number V, Discussion of the SSC
43 Organization, and Mr. Gregory.

44
45 **DISCUSSION OF SSC ORGANIZATION**

46
47 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Thank you. It's Tab G, Number 5,
48 and I've got a number of alternatives. The first one is status

1 quo, and the second alternative is to reduce the size of the
2 Standing SSC and to add two additional special SSCs, a Stock
3 Assessment Special SSC and an Ecosystem Modeling Special SSC.

4
5 When we reorganized the SSCs in 2015, and actually it was Dr.
6 Lorenzen, who is here with us today, said, just in a sidebar,
7 suggested that we create a stock assessment SSC, and I think
8 part of the reason for that is that there are some people that
9 would probably not want to attend all five of our SSC meetings,
10 but only when needed, and that indeed is what happened with the
11 ecosystem people.

12
13 They did not apply for the Standing SSC, and the reason we were
14 given is they did not want to be committed to five meetings a
15 year, and so I think -- Since then, we do have two people who
16 have told me that they want to reapply, but I was thinking that,
17 if we had a Special Ecosystem Modeling SSC, then we might
18 attract more of those people.

19
20 Alternative 3 would be to only reduce the size of the special
21 SSCs and add the two additional SSCs that I just spoke about.
22 It would reduce the size to three people or fewer, and what
23 we're trying to get at here is to not have too large of a group
24 of people in a meeting room.

25
26 We've got seventeen to nineteen people, up to twenty, on the
27 Standing SSC, and, if we have five people on each special SSC
28 and we convene three of them in a two-day period, they overlap,
29 and it becomes a logistical problem in the meeting room, and it
30 also creates some confusion, because, even though we would
31 expect say the Mackerel SSC to get up and leave after their item
32 is finished, so the Reef Fish SSC can sit down, some people tend
33 to not want to leave and just continue to participate in the
34 meeting, and so it's some confusion.

35
36 Then Alternative 4 is to keep the Standing SSC at eighteen
37 people and eliminate the specials altogether, and that is what
38 other councils do. We are the only council with special SSCs,
39 and so I went back to try to research why, and I couldn't find
40 in the minutes why, but I did find that, in 1977, the Standing
41 SSC only had eight members, and, from the people that were
42 appointed, it looked like they were the leaders in the
43 respective fields of legal, anthropology, economics, and
44 biology. Then it appears to me, although this is not in the
45 minutes, that the special SSCs were designed to complement that,
46 whenever we were talking about king mackerel or red drum.

47
48 Now our SSC has grown from eight to eighteen people, or twenty

1 people, and it doesn't include just the masters of the
2 respective profession. It includes people that are actually out
3 there doing field work and doing modeling and stock assessments,
4 and so some of the special SSCs may not be needed.

5
6 There has been some discussion that coral is unique, and maybe
7 shrimp is unique, but other councils only have one Standing SSC
8 of about eighteen or nineteen people, and then they form
9 subcommittees, and so what we could do is, if we did away with
10 the special SSCs, definitely when we advertise for
11 reappointments, we emphasize that people on the special SSCs, if
12 they want to continue to work with us on the SSC, to apply for
13 the Standing SSC.

14
15 We did run this by the SSC meeting a couple of weeks ago, and
16 the comments that we got were, one, is there a goal for number
17 of members, and, no, we don't have a set goal, and we're just
18 trying to simplify things, and it was also pointed out that the
19 SSC could form subcommittees, like other councils do, which I
20 have got in this document.

21
22 Then one person on the special SSC noted that, since they only
23 met infrequently, it was hard for them to keep up with the
24 council activities, and someone on the Socioeconomic SSC said
25 they thought that it was very helpful for them to have that one,
26 and they applauded the attempt to create an Ecosystem Modeling
27 SSC.

28
29 Those were the comments from the SSC, and we gave it to them as
30 Other Business on their agenda, and I will leave it up to the
31 committee to discuss if any changes need to be made, and, if so,
32 what kind would be best. Thank you.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you, Gregory. Is there any discussions
35 on these alternatives or strategies that we would like to flesh
36 out here, at council, on this committee? Mr. Greene.

37
38 **MR. JOHNNY GREENE:** Mr. Gregory, if they form subcommittees,
39 will they meet when the SSC meets, but as a subcommittee, or
40 will it be another meeting? I mean, just how would this
41 protocol work? I have a council meeting in mind, where we have
42 committees and then we have a council meeting, and is a similar
43 format, or is it something completely different that I'm not
44 aware of?

45
46 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I think the subcommittees would
47 probably meet separately. I would have to research how it's
48 done. I don't know if they vote or if they're simply preparing

1 documents or preparing analysis for the full SSC.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Robin.

4
5 **MR. RIECHERS:** Doug, I want to go back. You went over it pretty
6 quickly there, and so, from the ecosystem perspective, that one
7 seems, to me, maybe one that we can pull off of here, because
8 you were saying that they had trouble committing to five
9 committee meetings a year, and, currently, we have two of those
10 in our Standing SSC, and so your notion is possibly to create a
11 special SSC, and would we move those two individuals over to
12 that, or would we just go out for nominations? That would, in
13 fact, do some of what you're suggesting by reducing the core
14 number.

15
16 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Correct.

17
18 **MR. RIECHERS:** I will give a little rationale. The only reason
19 why I am thinking about those individuals and actually creating
20 that special one is, for the most part, those scientists are
21 really in the world of ecosystem parameters and working in those
22 kind of modeling exercises, and they are a little bit different,
23 though we need them to be embedded, but they are a little bit
24 different than the traditional stock assessments and the
25 traditional review of the amendments that we have coming through
26 the council on a regular basis.

27
28 That one does seem like it may offer itself as an opportunity to
29 move it over as a special SSC when we're truly dealing with
30 something in the ecosystem realm, and that's one possibility,
31 anyhow.

32
33 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** To me, the simplest thing to do is
34 just to reduce the special SSCs from five to three people and
35 see how that works and leave the standing alone, if you want to
36 keep these specials.

37
38 **MR. RIECHERS:** If we do that though, that means that we have to
39 go now to our specials and pull people off, basically, and is
40 that correct?

41
42 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Yes, but we have an opportunity to
43 do that, because, after this council meeting, we're going to be
44 advertising for the SSC seats, and that starts from scratch, and
45 we will be advertising for the Shrimp and Reef Fish APs as well,
46 and so all of that is going to happen after this council
47 meeting, and so it's a good time to restructure anything, before
48 we do the advertising.

1
2 **MR. RIECHERS:** I guess, just from my perspective as just one
3 committee member, I am less concerned about those numbers,
4 because, first of all, not everyone shows up, as you're
5 suggesting, and that's been part of our issue.
6

7 Secondly, the other things you described were basically managing
8 both the meeting room and the size of the meeting room before we
9 get there and then managing the meeting as it moves on, making
10 it very clear that you're part of this special SSC and you're at
11 the table when it goes on, but then you're not in the
12 deliberations, though certainly, if you have them there and you
13 want to use their expertise, but they aren't a voting member of
14 the next body, as it comes to the table to deal with those
15 issues.
16

17 I think that's just management of that group, and so, while I
18 hear what you're saying, I guess I am maybe looking for an
19 alternative that may be slightly different than the one that you
20 are suggesting.
21

22 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you. Mr. Anson.
23

24 **MR. ANSON:** Thank you. I have two questions for Doug. The
25 first question, Doug, is I am a little unfamiliar as to how the
26 special SSCs work in relationship to the Standing SSC and as far
27 as voting on particular issues. Do the special SSCs kind of
28 discuss a particular issue or topic that has come to them and
29 then they provide guidance, or are they actually part of the
30 vote, if you will, for a particular action or item within their
31 particular realm and they get included with the Standing SSC's
32 vote?
33

34 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Mr. Gregory.
35

36 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Thank you. When we convene a
37 special SSC with the Standing, both groups vote as a whole.
38 It's not a separate vote, and we have not, as far as I know,
39 been in the habit of convening a special SSC like a subcommittee
40 would be. We haven't used them in that manner.
41

42 We don't have so much of a problem of attendance, and I've been
43 trying to encourage smaller groups, by allowing webinar
44 attendance, and it's problematic, but it works to some extent,
45 but we do -- This is not a problem that we can solve, but we do
46 have a number of people that just come to the meetings and don't
47 participate. They will vote, but they won't speak up, and there
48 is no solution for that that I know of. We don't keep track of

1 that sort of thing, but it's been an observation that I've heard
2 from council members and from other SSC members and staff, that
3 it just seems so odd, but I will leave it at that.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Mr. Anson.

6
7 **MR. ANSON:** The second question I had was, in Alternative 4, at
8 the bottom of the alternative, it says we can let the Standing
9 SSC develop appropriate subcommittees, and so would they
10 function in the same way as a special SSC, in regards to would
11 they get a vote, if you will, or are they just there for
12 answering questions and providing more guidance to the Standing
13 SSC, because, currently, we select those that are on the special
14 SSCs, and they're getting a vote, and so I'm just wondering if
15 this is going to change that process, and I am a little
16 concerned, I guess, if the SSC would select those people who
17 would ultimately vote with them or not with them.

18
19 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** The SSC would self-identify
20 subcommittees, and the subcommittees are a part of the SSC, and
21 so they definitely are voting. If they met outside of the SSC,
22 it would be to generate documents and analysis for that
23 particular subject, and it wouldn't be to make any decisions or
24 recommendations.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Any other discussion? I have a question. Do
27 we need to pick an alternative or a preferred or anything at
28 this time, as far as timelines and moving forward with
29 appointments? Mr. Gregory.

30
31 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** If you want to stay with status
32 quo, no motion would be necessary.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Dr. Shipp.

35
36 **DR. BOB SHIPP:** I am not on the committee, and so I don't think
37 that I can technically make a motion, but, having served on the
38 SSC, I think Doug is exactly right. There are members that come
39 and don't contribute at all. In general, I would favor
40 Alternative 3, reducing the number of the special committees to
41 three and keeping the current eighteen members of the SSC.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Is there a motion on the floor? Mr. Matens.

44
45 **MR. CAMP MATENS:** If, under Alternative 3, we keep the Standing
46 SSC at eighteen and reduce the special SSCs, of which there are
47 seven, I think, to three, we only save seven people. That is
48 one comment that I have, and another question that I have is, if

1 we utilize Alternative 4, how comfortable are we that we have
2 the skills in the SSC, the eighteen-person SSC, to fill the
3 subcommittees?

4

5 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Any other discussion? Dr. Frazer.

6

7 **DR. FRAZER:** Thanks, Dr. Mickle. It seems to me that -- I am
8 thinking about this, and, if you keep the Standing SSC with
9 eighteen members and you populate it with representatives that
10 could perform these various functions, I guess, or deal with the
11 issues at hand, then you would probably be in a good position,
12 because there is no restriction, I guess, in identifying
13 expertise that may not exist on an SSC and bringing them in if
14 you need them.

15

16 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Mr. Gregory.

17

18 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Yes, that would be a staff call.
19 The travel expenses would be extra, but there would be no salary
20 stipend. While I've got the mic, I wanted to point out that we
21 did create a new committee today, and Dr. Shipp is on the new
22 committee list, along with Dr. Frazer, Mr. Sanchez, Mr. Greene,
23 Mr. Diaz, Mr. Schieble, Mr. Riechers, and Dr. Mickle.

24

25 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you, Mr. Gregory. I was going to read
26 them on the record, and I appreciate that. When we formed the
27 committee with the new members, and I have the old member list,
28 and so I want to clarify that I did read the wrong names on the
29 record from the old agenda. Thank you. Dr. Shipp.

30

31 **DR. SHIPP:** Since I am on the committee, and for the benefit of
32 discussion, I will move Alternative 3.

33

34 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** We have a motion. Is there a second? Robin.

35

36 **MR. RIECHERS:** I will second that.

37

38 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** We have a motion and a second. **Is there any**
39 **opposition? The motion carries.**

40

41 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Thank you.

42

43 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Robin.

44

45 **MR. RIECHERS:** At this juncture, I will also move that we create
46 a special SSC regarding ecosystem modeling.

47

48 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Ms. Bosarge.

1
2 **MS. LEANN BOSARGE:** Is it your intent, Robin, with that motion
3 that the current positions in the Standing SSC for ecosystem
4 will be pulled off and --

5
6 **MR. RIECHERS:** I guess, in this case, because I voted for the
7 first motion, I am not going to suggest that at this time,
8 Leann, because there is only two of those scientists on the
9 current standing, and I think their value probably is still
10 there, but it would give a greater flavor of that in the room if
11 we're actually dealing with some sort of issue that really needs
12 to encompass that ecosystem approach in some way, and so I think
13 it would help by benefitting by three additional folks being
14 there to do that, that have that complement.

15
16 We're struggling with how to do ecosystem integration anyhow,
17 and so I think having a few more people around the table that
18 think like that, as opposed to kind of our traditional modelers,
19 and the reason that I only chose ecosystem modeling here is I
20 just don't know that we needed the SSC for the stock assessment,
21 when you think about that we already have basically five of the
22 current members who are quantitative biologists and ecologists
23 who will already be there on the Standing SSC, and so that's why
24 I am doing it for one group but not the other one that was
25 possibly suggested here.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Mr. Gregory.

28
29 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I just want to note that
30 Alternative 3 did include the creation of the Stock Assessment
31 and Ecosystem Modeling Special SSCs.

32
33 **MR. RIECHERS:** Now that I read it, you're correct. When he said
34 it, he said just the size change, but he did say Alternative 3,
35 and so I apologize. I will back up, and I will deal with that
36 at Full Council then. I will try to pull out the other one.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Okay. Thank you, Robin. I will chime in real
39 quick at the end here, but I've been on the SSC, and I have
40 served and loved every minute of it. It was a lot of fun, but
41 there is an easy metric, and, to look at this perspective, I am
42 going to try and give a different spin.

43
44 As a small state agency, we look at money first, and so what's
45 the best financial way to pull off the most efficient way of
46 getting the information through a scientific channel, and I
47 guess I'm a little bit hard-core, but I would pull the meeting
48 minutes and the conversations. If people didn't speak, I would

1 remove them from the SSC, and that would be that, and so I would
2 like if there could be some discussion on that. Coming and
3 spending money and just voting, that's not part of the process.
4 The discussion is the meat of scientists fleshing out what they
5 want, and just any discussion to that. Dale.

6
7 **MR. DALE DIAZ:** Thank you, Dr. Mickle. We are going to re-
8 advertise this SSC, and maybe that's something we can look at
9 when we have the discussion on repopulating it, is to try to
10 strive to get some people that is going to participate. We do
11 need folks to participate there, and so I strongly agree with
12 Dr. Mickle. While I've got the mic, I do second Robin's motion.
13 Thank you.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** I thought Robin was going to work on it and
16 come back at Full Council. Is that correct, Robin?

17
18 **MR. RIECHERS:** Dale, just because the motion had already
19 included the stock assessment, and, since we voted for that, I
20 feel like we shouldn't do that now and have the committee pull
21 it out.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Agreed. Mr. Gregory.

24
25 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** We have metrics on who attends the
26 meetings or don't attend, but we don't have any metrics on who
27 actively participates, and I think that would be difficult to
28 accumulate.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Difficult, but not impossible, though. The
31 conversations are on the record in reality, but I agree with
32 your statement, Doug, and that's fine. I just wanted to make
33 that point, that the participation is just as important as the
34 voting, and I think we would most all agree to that.

35
36 Also, I would like to just put a quick, hesitant conversation
37 on, and so the ecosystem folks that could possibly show up and
38 participate, and they all vote, the Standing and the specialized
39 SSC of ecosystem modelers, and the Standing SSC could
40 potentially overwhelm the voting with the small group of the
41 ecosystem modelers, and so they could be at a large
42 disadvantage, considering the disciplines are very different
43 from each other and quite contradictory, in a lot of different
44 realms, when we're talking about single species and voting on
45 these going up to the council, and so I would just like to make
46 that point. Is there any other discussion on Item V? Madam
47 Chair.

48

1 **MS. BOSARGE:** I just wanted to just note, for the record, that I
2 am looking at this, and I am thinking about people logistically
3 applying, and we may have people, ecosystem people, that end up
4 applying only to the Special Ecosystem SSC instead of the
5 Standing, because of some of the issues that we talked about
6 earlier, like they don't want to attend all five meetings, and
7 they only want to attend -- I just wanted to throw out there
8 that what it says in our SOPPs is that the Standing SSC will
9 consist of eighteen individuals that include approximately this
10 many from this group and this many from that group.

11
12 We do have some flexibility. Once we actually see who applies
13 and where they want to place themselves, either on the special
14 or the Standing, but, if we need to maybe change how many
15 ecosystem people we have on the Standing SSC or how many stock
16 assessment people we have on the Standing SSC, because of where
17 they chose to put themselves, we do have some flexibility there.
18 It's not written in stone that you have to have this many of
19 this group and this many of that group on the Standing, and I
20 just kind of wanted to throw it out there, because I can see it
21 coming up, maybe, as we start to populate those groups.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Dr. Frazer.

24
25 **DR. FRAZER:** Thank you. Along those lines, if you populated the
26 Standing SSC representatively, then I think you might
27 potentially avoid that issue of any one particular group kind of
28 swamping out the opinions or the perspectives of another, and
29 that would also allow you or that SSC to, again, identify
30 subgroups or subcommittees and kind of reduce your cost,
31 potentially, and I appreciate what you said, in that regard.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you. Is there any other discussion?
34 Mr. Diaz.

35
36 **MR. DIAZ:** Before we leave this topic, I just want to mention
37 that I was fortunate to be able to represent the council at the
38 last SSC meeting, and it's the first time that I have done that,
39 and it was a great learning experience for me, and I just want
40 to say, on the record, that there were a few people that didn't
41 participate, but, as a whole, I think we have a very good SSC of
42 highly-qualified people, and I am very impressed with the
43 caliber of people that we have on our SSC, and, any council
44 member that gets a chance to go and represent the council at an
45 SSC meeting, it's a very good learning experience, and I really
46 appreciate the people being willing to serve on our SSCs and
47 dedicate their time to helping us. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

1 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Mr. Swindell.
2
3 **MR. ED SWINDELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not on the
4 committee, but I am going to have to vote on this later, and
5 part of my whole issue that I am looking at here is that we have
6 eighteen members on the SSC now, and you're telling me that we
7 don't have people that can do a stock assessment?
8
9 Of all the things that this council has to deal with, it's stock
10 assessments, and I don't know the people on the committee. I
11 don't have the list, and I don't know what their expertise is,
12 but I cannot believe that we don't have enough on that committee
13 to do stock assessments that we're getting all the information
14 from NMFS of all the stock assessment data that's been
15 collected.
16
17 I am also having trouble with the ecosystem modeling. It's just
18 amazing, to me, that we have eighteen members and there is no
19 ecosystem modeling people on this committee. Of all the things
20 that we've done through the history of time on this council, and
21 it's just amazing to me that we've got to keep adding and adding
22 and adding people to get information, and I'm looking for the
23 best scientific information available. To me, the SSC provides
24 that to us, and I am just having trouble agreeing whether or not
25 we ought to go with this motion. Thank you.
26
27 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Mr. Swindell, as a question, you're saying
28 that you think that the SSC has enough people to keep the stock
29 assessments coming to the council faster, and is that your
30 complaint? It's more of just they're giving it their blessing
31 as that statement of the best available science.
32
33 **MR. SWINDELL:** I am just wondering whether or not the people on
34 the SSC now cannot have enough knowledge of the stock assessment
35 information to do the job, and why in the world do we need more?
36
37 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Okay. Thank you. Robin.
38
39 **MR. RIECHERS:** Just quickly, the special portions of these
40 groups have typically tried to add a flavor, and it may be
41 someone with more knowledge of the mackerel fishery or the
42 shrimp fishery, as opposed to someone who may be more of a stock
43 assessment guru, who is there for that purpose, and so, kind of
44 in answer to your question, Ed, I think the same thing, or at
45 least what staff has recommended here, was the same thing would
46 apply to both stock assessments and ecosystems.
47
48 Frankly, I am like you, and that's why I will try to adjust it

1 at the Full Council. I think, from a stock assessment
2 perspective, the Standing SSC has that covered pretty well.
3 Now, whether or not they contribute or not is a whole different
4 question, but, if they're there and contributing, they should be
5 there.

6
7 One of the problems we have though with the Standing, and I will
8 say this, and I think this is part of the question about
9 contribution, is, whether we like to believe it or not, the
10 council process is pretty inside baseball, and so, when they
11 show up at a meeting and they're dealing with Standing SSC
12 members who are possibly rolling through amendments because they
13 are more familiar, those coming from the special group, who may
14 meet less frequently with those groups, it may be a little
15 catchup for them.

16
17 Now, they should do their homework and come prepared, et cetera,
18 but we also have to think about that dynamic as well, especially
19 when you have some very strong personalities in the room from
20 time to time, and so that may be cause for some of that, but
21 that does beg the question, as Paul suggests, of trying to make
22 sure that we find people who are willing to get in that room and
23 actually lay out their information that they can help provide or
24 their viewpoint that they can help provide.

25
26 Ed, I think the reason we went to specials is to try to bring
27 more flavor of those particular groups into the room, as opposed
28 to some of the folks here who may work across a variety of
29 issues, but may not know those particular fisheries. Thank you.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Dr. Simmons.

32
33 **DR. CARRIE SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just from a staff
34 perspective, I think one of the reasons that we were proposing
35 this is remember that we task our SSC members with a lot of
36 different meetings, and it's not just the Standing meetings and
37 the special meetings at the council level, but we ask them to go
38 to the various stock assessments, and we ask them to go to the
39 data workshops, and we ask them to go to the assessment
40 workshops, and we ask them to go to the review workshops.

41
42 Then, after that, they have to develop their report, and we have
43 to have Chairs, and those reports go to the SSC, and so it's a
44 laborious process with stock assessments. It's not just the
45 council meetings that we have of the SSC, and so I think the
46 idea was that we're not constantly pulling from that same group
47 of people and that we have a group of experts that is very
48 knowledgeable about stock assessments, and not that we don't

1 have current members that are very knowledgeable about stock
2 assessments, but they could also provide additional feedback and
3 information, but it's another group of specialists that we could
4 pull from, and that's the way that I remember that we discussed
5 this at the staff level.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you, Dr. Simmons. I do know, with the
8 little bit of background I have on the ecosystem assessments,
9 it's quantitatively very different from standardized stock
10 assessments, and even the software is different. The new
11 generation has taken on this, or at least in the southern
12 ecosystems, and it's R-based, and the analyses couldn't be more
13 different, and so having that specialized presence, hopefully
14 strong personalities and a vocal presence, they will carry
15 through and this fledging, small committee will be able to make
16 an influence and we'll start to see it at the council level.

17
18 Is there any more discussion on Item V before we move on to our
19 Item VI that was added this morning? With that, we will move on
20 to Item VI, and that is Marine Resource Education Program 2018
21 Workshops, Tab G, Number 6, and Mr. Gregory.

22
23 **MARINE RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM 2018 WORKSHOPS**

24
25 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As in
26 previous years, the Marine Resource Education Program is
27 conducting two fisheries workshops, and one council member is
28 invited to participate. The MREP people will pay your travel
29 and lodging, full travel expenses, but you're going as an
30 individual, and you're not going as a representative of the
31 council, and so there is no stipend involved.

32
33 MREP has also organized a new aquaculture educational program,
34 and I will turn it over to Madam Chair Bosarge, because she has
35 been talking more with Alexa, the lead of the MREP program,
36 about that.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Madam Chair.

39
40 **MS. BOSARGE:** Thanks, and, before I get into that, and so, if
41 any council member is interested in going to the main MREP, what
42 do they need to do? Do they need to contact you or the MREP
43 people directly?

44
45 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** No, they can contact me. There is
46 an application process, and I think, if you contact me, I will
47 send your name forward, and they might send you an application.
48 Dr. Frazer went to it this past year, and so he could provide

1 some insight to you about how beneficial it is. You attended
2 both the science and the management workshops?

3
4 **DR. FRAZER:** Yes, I attended it, and I actually think it's a
5 great program, and so, if anybody hasn't had an opportunity to
6 participate, it gives you a pretty interesting perspective.

7
8 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you, Dr. Frazer. Madam Chair.

9
10 **MS. BOSARGE:** I agree, and I attended it a couple of years ago.
11 I didn't get to go to the management side of it, but that's
12 okay. I figure that I get enough of that around this table, but
13 it was very interesting, and I encourage anybody that gets a
14 chance to go.

15
16 The thing that I was going to bring up is the MREP program --
17 There is a lot of different modules that you go through when you
18 go into that workshop and that program, and what they are trying
19 to do now is to also develop an aquaculture module that would be
20 part of the MREP program.

21
22 In doing so, they are doing essentially like a test run at it
23 right now, to try and figure out what exactly do you need to get
24 out of an aquaculture module in the MREP program and what are
25 the things that stakeholders want to know about it and need to
26 know about it and things like that.

27
28 In doing so, they are going to have a test run at this
29 aquaculture module and try and get feedback from council members
30 and stakeholders about what should be in it, and so there's
31 going to be two workshops. There will be one -- The first
32 workshop is in Maine from May 15 through 18, and you will go to
33 a series of different ports in Maine, and, essentially, it will
34 kind of bring the participants of this test-run module up to
35 speed on what the mature aquaculture industry looks like in
36 those areas of our country.

37
38 Then that's going to be followed up with another aquaculture
39 workshop here in New Orleans about a month later, June 12
40 through 14, and that workshop is going to specifically examine
41 the status of aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico, the science,
42 the regulatory processes, the permitting, an in-depth discussion
43 of the federal FMP, all those different things.

44
45 They are really hoping to include like maybe four or five
46 council members in this, because they want our perspective too
47 on what needs to be in that module, and so, if you are
48 interested in attending either one of those two workshops, the

1 May one in Maine or the June one in New Orleans, let Mr. Gregory
2 know. Like I said, they're looking for about four or five
3 council members, and they will pay your travel, MREP will.
4 There is no salary involved, because you're not a council
5 member, per se, at those, and so you're not on council business.

6
7 They really just want your feedback as a stakeholder,
8 essentially, a council stakeholder, and so, if you're
9 interested, let Mr. Gregory know, and we will pass the
10 information along, so that they can get you the paperwork that
11 you need. Any questions?

12
13 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you. Any other discussion on this Item
14 VI? Mr. Anson.

15
16 **MR. ANSON:** When do you need to know the answer to whether or
17 not you want to participate?

18
19 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Clearly, the sooner the better,
20 but, since the first workshop is in April for the fisheries and
21 the one for aquaculture is in May, by the end of February, at
22 the latest, and I will say that it might be first-come-first-
23 served, and so I would prefer to have something within two
24 weeks.

25
26 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you. Anything else? All right. Moving
27 on to Item VII, which is Other Business. Mr. Gregory.

28
29 **OTHER BUSINESS**

30
31 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I just wanted to point out that we
32 started doing background checks in the new system after 2015,
33 and so I don't know when, if ever, we have done background
34 checks on SSC applicants, but it is something that we could do,
35 and I wanted to get some guidance from the council on do you
36 want us to do background checks on the SSC applicants like we do
37 with the AP applicants, which means that we'll review them in
38 April and make a preliminary selection and do the background
39 checks after the April council meeting and then make a final
40 selection in June.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Does the background check follow the same
43 protocols as the APs?

44
45 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Right. It would be looking for any
46 marine resource violation.

47
48 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Dr. Frazer.

1
2 **DR. FRAZER:** I don't think I would be inclined to go that way.
3 I don't think it's necessary.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Madam Chair.

6
7 **MS. BOSARGE:** Yes, I kind of agree, on that note. I think
8 that's kind of an added level of steps and bureaucracy. I mean,
9 I don't see where that body really needs a background check.

10
11 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** I don't know. I might argue that you could do
12 sort of a scientific background check, to see if they have ever
13 had any of their analyses challenged or anything like that. I
14 would see that more applicable than fishing violations, but
15 anyway. Thank you for that discussion. Is there any other
16 business to discuss here at the end of this agenda? With that,
17 I will close the committee.

18
19 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on January 29, 2018.)

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21

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