

## **Outreach and Education Committee Report January 28, 2019 Mr. Phil Dyskow, Chair**

Council reviewed a draft of the “Fishing for Our Future” website (Tab O, No.4) that aims to display the Council’s Descending and Venting Policy and communicate best fishing practices. The website will highlight how much discard mortality occurs across the Gulf and curate all the outreach materials and research done on barotrauma mitigation in the region.

The Committee made suggestions to improve the current draft and Committee members offered to assist staff in finding additional materials to add. Staff asked that Committee members, Council members, and the public contact her with any more suggestions.

Next, staff presented the draft agenda for a Barotrauma Workshop (Tab O, No.5) with the objective of creating an action plan to promote the use of barotrauma mitigation tools, enhance data collection efforts for discard mortality, and incorporate those results into stock assessments.

The Committee suggested appropriate invitees for the meeting and asked that staff avoid hosting the meeting in late summer to ensure that for-hire operators are available to participate.

Finally, staff presented the Council with preliminary results from its “Something’s Fishy” data collection tool. The tool has been used to collect anglers’ perspectives on what’s happening with fish stocks prior to each stock assessment. The tool was launched for red grouper (Tab O, No.6) and results were reported to the stock assessment panel and the Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee. The Council recently launched the tool for yellowtail snapper (Tab O, No. 7) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission cross promoted the tool. The tool has received 360 responses for far. The Council directed staff to include the results of each “Something’s Fishy” launch in its background materials when stock assessment results are presented to the Council.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.