

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

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**Agenda Item IV: Combining Admin. Policy and Budget/Personnel Committees (Tab G, No. 4)**

**Timeline Status:** Initial Discussion. Since the Council Chair will be developing a new committee roster after the August meeting this action needs to be addressed at the August Council meeting.

**Background:** Staff is suggesting the integration of the Administrative Policy and Budget/Personnel Committees. Most of the other Councils have only a single committee for these functions.

**The Next Step:** Decide to keep the committees as separate Administrative Committees or make a motion to combine the committees into one.

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**Agenda Item V: Historical Performance of Scoping Meetings (Tab G, No. 5)**

**Timeline Status:** Initial Review

**Background:** Staff is proposing to put less emphasis on Scoping Hearings and more on holding Advisory Panel meetings. Each series of Scoping Hearings take two weeks to complete and attendance is typically so low as to make them ineffective. Our AP and SSC meetings, as well as the Council meetings and associated public testimony provide extensive information that NMFS can use to support their scoping process.

**The Next Step:** No motion is necessary. For future actions, ongoing Council consideration to place more emphasis on using our Advisory Panels for stakeholder input and less on scoping hearings may provide more complete information for the Council's decision-making process.

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**Agenda Item VI: Review of AP Staggered Terms (Tab G, No. 6)**

**Timeline Status:** Initial Review

**Background:** After the Council decided on creating 3-year staggered terms for AP members, staff implemented a schedule for the existing APs whereby about a third of the committees were to be reappointed in 2016, 2017, or 2018 and then three years henceforth.

**The Next Step:** Only action needed is to determine the initial reappointment schedule for the newly created Ad Hoc Private Recreational Committee.

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**Agenda Item VII: AP Appointments and Fishing Violations (Tab G, No. 7)**

**Timeline Status:** Review of Council policy on consideration of fishing violations in the AP appointment process.

**Background:** At one point in the 1980s the Council decided, as an unwritten policy, not to consider fishing violations as a criteria for appointing boat owners who were not present on the vessel at the

time of the violation. This policy was changed in June, 2015. Also due to difficulties in obtaining background checks for fishery violations from the Gulf States, the Council in 2011 decided not to conduct such background checks. In 2014, the Council re-initiated background checks for fishery violations but to date we have only relied on NOAA information which contains only federal violations. Concern was expressed at the June 2015 meeting that state level background checks should be conducted as well. In addition some of the long-standing AP members who were removed are requesting a time frame in which they would become eligible for appointment.

**The Next Step:** Establish a Council policy for the SOPPs regarding the responsibility of boat owners and a look-back time frame for consideration of past violations. Also decide whether to conduct background checks through States.

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### **Agenda Item VIII: Review of SOPPs Revisions (Tab G, No. 8)**

**Timeline Status:** Ongoing review.

**Background:** Staff has updated the SOPPs based on the Ad Hoc Committee's comments and NOAA comments accepted by the Council in previous meetings. We now have a few track changes for consideration based on Council decisions with regard to AP and SSC appointments and a few other items.

**The Next Step:** To review existing track changes and decide which ones to include in the SOPPs.

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### **Agenda Item IX: Review of MSA Reauthorization Bills (Tab G, No. 9)**

**Timeline Status:** Initial Review

**Background:** Both the House and Senate have offered MSA reauthorization bills that staff will review in preparation for the possibility that the Council may be asked to testify at a future hearing. NOAA General Counsel, at the Council Coordination Committee meeting in June, advised the Councils they could no longer provide testimony or letters supporting or opposing any action proposed by Congress, but rather, the Council can only describe the potential impacts of proposed actions.

**The Next Step:** To provide staff with guidance as to the potential impacts of proposed measures in Congressional bills.

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### **Agenda Item X: Discuss Recent EFH 5-Year Review Budget Enhancement (Tab G, No. 10)**

**Timeline Status:** Review of Administrative Action related to budget enhancement.

**Background:** The NMFS has given the Council an increase of \$100K in its administrative budget to facilitate the upcoming 5-year review of Essential Fish Habitat as mandated by the implementing regulations. We have advertised to fill a position, to extend through 2016, to compile updated literature and to conduct the needed review.

**The Next Step:** No action is needed.

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