

## **Administrative/Budget Committee:** Action Guide & Next Steps for Tab G

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**Agenda Item IV:** Review and Discuss Proposed Modifications to Council’s Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures (SOPPs)

**Timeline Status:** Discuss and Provide Feedback via Motion as Appropriate

**Council Input and Next Steps:** During the October 2022 Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meeting, NOAA provided draft polices on Anti-Harassment for Council Employees and Process Participants other than Council Employees. An interactive training opportunity was provided to the regional councils from NOAA. It was recommended during the CCC meeting that all Councils consider implementing policies to address Allegations of Harassment for Process Participants and a separate policy for Council Employees. Council staff has taken this final policy provided by NOAA for Council Process Participants (**Tab G, No. 4ai**) and integrated it into the Gulf Council’s SOPPs for review and approval (**Tab G, No. 4a**). The Committee is asked to review and consider a motion to adopt the proposed verbiage including the consideration of annual or biennial training requirement for Process Participants. Any necessary changes to the Anti-Harassment Policy for Council Employees will be considered in the Administrative Handbook.

The Law Enforcement Technical Committee (LETC) met and reviewed the Council’s August 2022 changes to Section 2.6 of the SOPPs in Closed Session. This section pertains to how the Council handles fishing violations relative to the appointment process for members of the Advisory Panels. The LETC described the differences between state and federal written warnings; whereas a federal written warning includes a process for contesting the violation, there is no due process for contesting a state written warning. Council staff reviewed the summary report of the LETC, during the October 2022 Council meeting and upon consideration of the recommendations from the LETC, the Council recommended that the Administrative Budget Committee consider incorporating these changes into the SOPPs (**Tab G, No 4b**).

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**Agenda Item V:** Review and approve Proposed 2023 Activities and Contract

**Timeline Status:** Discuss and Provide Feedback via Motion as Appropriate

**Council Input and Next Steps:** Staff will provide a draft of the 2023 activities (**Tab G, No. 5a**). The Committee should provide feedback on the proposed activities.

Staff has drafted a proposal for hiring a contractor to update descriptions of Essential Fish Habitat for federally managed Gulf of Mexico finfish and shrimp species (**Tab G, No 5b**). The maximum budget anticipated to complete this type of work is \$85,000. The Committee should review the proposed work, provide feedback, and determine if they want to move forward with funding this effort.

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**Agenda Item VI:** Review 2023 Budget

**Timeline Status:** Informational and Feedback

**Council Input and Next Steps:** Staff will provide a draft of the 2023 budget (**Tab G, No 6**). The committee should provide feedback and ask questions regarding the current cost projections. The 2023 draft budget considers increasing the Gulf State and Commission funds by an additional \$5,000 in 2023 for up to a total of \$50,000 to each of the Gulf States and Commission. If the Committee agrees with the proposed \$5,000 increase in liaison funds, then a motion is necessary.

No motion is needed at this time to approve the 2023 budget because the Council has not received the final 2023 funding. Staff will bring the final funded budget back to the Council later in 2023 for review and approval.

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**Agenda Item VII:** Discussion of Advisory Panels Due for Reappointment in 2023

**Timeline Status:** Discuss and Provide Feedback via Motion as Appropriate

**Council Input and Next Steps:** The three-year term cycles for the Red Drum and Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP) APs are currently up for review. The Committee should decide if it wants to keep the current membership or re-advertise for each of the APs. The Red Drum AP has not been convened during this term cycle. The CMP AP has been convened three times during this term cycle.

The Committee should pass a motion directing staff to re-advertise for new members on either of the existing APs or keep the current membership. If the Committee decides to advertise for new AP members, the Council will review applicants and make preliminary selections at the April 2023 Council meeting. Then, at the June 2023 Council meeting, the Council will review the fishery background results of selected individuals and make their final AP selections.