

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

Agenda Item IV: Review and Approval of Final Funded 2021 Budget

Timeline Status: The Committee is requested to review and approve the 2021 funded budget.

Council Input and Next Steps: The Committee should review the funded 2021 budget. Staff have provided the draft 2021 budget alongside for reference. The Council has received our full funding distribution for the year, minus the \$94,000 which was redirected to the Southeast Regional Office to support upgrading the online permitting system for fishermen in the Gulf, South Atlantic, and Atlantic highly Migratory Species fisheries. After review and discussion, the Committee should consider a motion to approve the final 2021 funded budget.

Agenda Item V: Overview and Discussion of Potential Projects for Council Funding

Timeline Status: Review and Motion on Proposed Contractual Projects

Council Input and Next Steps: As discussed during the January 2021 Council meeting, operations and travel in 2020 were atypical due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A significant portion of the total 2020 budget remained unspent at year end. At this time, the Council has approximately \$911,000 in unexpended funds remaining from the 2020 funded budget. Normally in the first few years of a 5-year grant cycle, the Council carries over anywhere from in any one year. Although the \$514,500 remaining in unspent travel funds in 2020 are high, it is unlikely that this amount of unspent dollars will remain in this category in 2021 and beyond as travel and in-person meetings resume and travel costs appear to be on the rise. If the Council chooses to proceed with both these efforts at the proposed funding levels, approximately \$311,000 of the 2020 funds would remain. This is within the typical carryover number. Prior years of carryover funding have ranged between \$99,000-\$550,000 in any one year.

In January 2021, the Council directed staff to consider funding a research study, such as ageing of gray triggerfish that would decrease data gaps in the research track assessment that is currently scheduled to begin in 2024. The Council also requested staff consider a call for proposals to fund an expanded pilot study utilizing industry's preferred software for shrimp effort monitoring. Staff will discuss the two proposed projects that were requested for by the Council. The Committee should review the draft proposals and determine if the funding amount and scope of work should be approved for solicitation of a competitive proposal process. If the Committee chooses to move forward with the call for competitive proposals they should consider passing a motion.

Agenda Item VI: Discussion of SSC's Best Practices and Voting Procedures

Timeline Status: Review and Provide Feedback

Council Input and Next Steps: During the Spring 2021 Scientific and Statistic Committee (SSC) meeting, questions were raised regarding the peer review and best voting practices. Thus, staff has developed a draft document that outlines the peer review responsibilities and practices of the SSC. The Committee should review it and provide feedback on the draft. After the Committee reviews this document, it will be discussed with the SSC members during the August 3-5, 2021 meeting. Afterwards, the best practices and voting procedures will be posted on the Council website.

Other Business: Agenda Item VII a and b: Informational Overview of NMFS Draft Policy 01-116 and NMFS Draft Procedure 01-116-01

Timeline Status: Informational

Council Input and Next Steps: The National Marine Fisheries Service has updated policies and procedural directives regarding recusal determinations and the development of regional recusal determination procedure handbooks. Staff will provide a brief update on the relevant changes to the directives for the Committee. They are encouraged to ask any questions.