

Draft Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Proposal for Phase II Inflation Reduction Act Funding

Required Components

1. **Council name:** Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2. **Title:** Identification and Integration of Ecosystem Components into Flexible Management Measures for Climate Ready Fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico.
3. **Funding Priority:** This proposal meets the following three Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding priorities:
 - *“Operationalizing fish climate vulnerability assessments or other scientific products (e.g., ecosystem status reports, Integrated Ecosystem Assessments, etc);*
 - *Developing and implementing management changes or processes that address climate vulnerability or improve climate resiliency of fisheries (e.g., potential revisions to harvest control rules to account for changes in ecosystems related to climate change), including those that are important to underserved communities; and*
 - *Developing and implementing measures or processes that increase responsiveness of allocations or other management measures to climate impacts (e.g., “frameworking” or establishing predetermined thresholds when management changes occur)”.*
4. **Objective(s):** The first overarching objective for this proposal is to complete the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Ecosystem Plan and its components. The second objective is to develop procedures that will streamline management processes and regulatory actions to increase the Council’s responsiveness to climate change.
5. **Brief Summary of Activities:** This proposal covers a multi-year funding request which integrates two objectives into the overall plan. Based on the annual IRA funding received, portions of the proposed activities that are currently included in the Council’s administrative award would need to be reprogrammed, as appropriate. This multi-year proposal aims to communicate and engage the Southeast Fisheries Science Center and Regional Office as appropriate to ensure products that are developed are compatible with other ongoing shared research and management objectives.

The tasks outlined in this proposal will be performed by a newly hired Ecosystem Analyst and one full-time Administrative Research Assistant. There are two overarching objectives expected from this process that will directly meet the following NOAA Fisheries IRA objective *to operationalize fish climate vulnerability assessments or other scientific products (e.g., ecosystem status reports)*. For the first objective, the Ecosystem Analyst will develop a Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) Fishery Ecosystem Plan that will include separate Modules focused on Council-selected and stakeholder-driven Fishery Ecosystem issues. This objective has multiple components that include a management perspective (i.e., the Fishery Ecosystem Plan), the development of a Communication Plan, and the individual Modules summarizing the outcomes of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan process for each Fishery Ecosystem Issue. The second objective for the

Ecosystem Analyst to complete, with the assistance of a Consultant, is to develop procedures that will streamline the Council process and provide flexibility to improve fisheries management in response to climate change. Under those two overarching objectives, that directly meet NOAA Fisheries IRA objectives, are several smaller projects that will be developed to inform and support the main objectives. These efforts, in total, will provide the Council a flexible and dynamic framework to make better informed and more nimble management decisions.

Objective #1: Fishery Ecosystem Plan and Fishery Ecosystem Issue Modules

One of the challenges faced by the Council is managing fisheries while considering the implications of increased sea surface temperature and increased land-based nutrient influx into the Gulf of Mexico basin. Compared to other regions, the Gulf of Mexico has been warming at twice the rate, and has a latitudinal limitation that hinders the northward migration of species in search of colder waters (Wang et al. 2023). The increase in nutrient runoff can also create hypoxic zones, or “dead zones”, as well as drive more frequent harmful algal blooms. These factors are outside of the Council’s jurisdiction, yet have direct implications on fish productivity and health that can lead to additional social and economic impacts. The Council is developing a Fishery Ecosystem Plan to inform management decisions and to better define a flow of information between affected stakeholders and extra-jurisdictional agencies. The Fishery Ecosystem Plan will lay out the process of identifying a Fishery Ecosystem Issue and the potential management options that the Council could consider. Each issue will be explored and developed into individual Modules.

The Council will hire an Ecosystem Analyst who will be tasked with completing the development and writing of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Ecosystem Plan with assistance from a Social Science Contractor who will evaluate social effects and contribute to the development of the communications plan to reach audiences not typically involved in the Council process, including underserved communities. Due to the volume of research and information that will be gathered, as well as the meetings that will need to be organized and completed, the project will be supported by one full-time Administrative Research Assistant. The Fishery Ecosystem Plan will define the goals and objectives of ecosystem-based fishery management in the Gulf, define the process used to identify and work through Fishery Ecosystem Issues, develop an appropriate stakeholder engagement communications plan, and describe how information gained through the Fishery Ecosystem Plan process can be integrated into Council management actions.

Ecosystem Analyst to Develop and Execute the Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Plan

Specifically, the Ecosystem Analyst and Administrative Research Assistant will assist a Social Scientist Contractor in holding and staffing stakeholder engagement workshops following the Council’s Outreach and Education Technical Committee’s Communication Plan for the Fishery Ecosystem Plan. The Social Scientist Contractor will lead a process for assessing the Council’s standard audience attendees, as well as identifying underserved communities and stakeholders for current and future engagement processes. The Council is developing a Fishery Ecosystem Plan which is a process to better understand how an issue (that we are now calling Fishery Ecosystem Issues) can impact a fishery and inform management decisions. The Fishery Ecosystem Issues Loop is the process by which the Council gathers that information.

This Ecosystem Analyst will be tasked with the application and contract engagement process for the Social Scientist. The Ecosystem Analyst will also be responsible for coordinating the work of the Social Scientist Contractor to finalize and execute the Council's Outreach and Education Technical Committee's Communication Plan. This Committee is expected to meet annually to refine communications needs, develop Fishery Ecosystem Issue communications approaches, and review the effectiveness of communication campaigns. The Ecosystem Analyst will also be tasked with coordinating the integration of the Communications Plan into the Fishery Ecosystem Plan and Council management processes. The Ecosystem Analyst will also be tasked with convening the Ecosystem Technical Committee to review and provide comments on the process and draft deliverables.

The Ecosystem Analyst will also be responsible for leading the development of Modules for identified Fishery Ecosystem Issues and the processes that will provide potential management applications to the Council. Due to the page limitation and anticipated individualized strategy for each Fishery Ecosystem Issue Module, we did not provide a comprehensive list of approaches for each Module. Instead, we have included the Anticipated Draft components of the Fishery Ecosystem Module prior to completing the stakeholder engagement and prioritization processes. The Final Components will incorporate feedback from the Council and its advisory bodies into each Fishery Ecosystem Issue Module. The Draft Fishery Ecosystem Issues list below is not exhaustive and will continue to be refined by the Council and stakeholders throughout this process:

- 1) Changes in recruitment, mortality, and abundance for managed fish species due to seasonal blooms and intensities of red tide in the Gulf;
- 2) Identifying environmental drivers like water temperature, salinity, and harmful algal blooms and changes in forage fish distribution and landings that could be contributing to coastal migratory pelagic species' decline in abundance and/or shifts in distribution;
- 3) Implications of increased interactions between top predators (e.g., sharks and dolphins) and anglers;
- 4) Furthering our understanding of floating *Sargassum* distribution and interactions with federally managed reef fish abundance and recruitment in the Gulf of Mexico; and,
- 5) Assess and review landings, population genetics, and recent literature on select species (such as yellowtail snapper) to assess if there have been range shifts or expansions in the Gulf of Mexico. To date, no quantitative examples of range expansion north or south for Gulf species have occurred compared to other regions.

Social Scientist Contractor to Develop Stakeholder Engagements:

The Social Scientist Contractor will accomplish two primary objectives. First, the Contractor will be tasked with evaluating the effects each Fishery Ecosystem Issue has on associated fishing communities. Second, the Contractor will be tasked with identifying communities that are not typically engaged through normal Council communications channels and developing a communication plan that specifically targets those groups and individuals.

Each Fishery Ecosystem Issue will have a varied geographic and demographic scope of impact. The Social Scientist Contractor will be asked to help rank the impacts of potential Fishery Ecosystem Issues to help inform the Council's prioritization of work on those issues. Once an issue is selected, the Social Science contractor will be tasked with evaluating and synthesizing

the effects that the Fishery Ecosystem Issue has on associated fishing communities using established social and economic indicators. The Social Scientist Contractor's strategy will vary by issue and will not be fully developed until the contractor is procured and the Fishery Ecosystem Issues are prioritized and selected. However, stakeholder engagements may include hosting port meetings in each of the Gulf states as well as other meeting locations and formats. The goal of these engagement meetings is to involve stakeholders from all sectors and geographic areas impacted by each fishery ecosystem issue.

The Council's established communications networks and tactics reach a broad audience of engaged fishermen and stakeholders; however, novel approaches are necessary to identify and engage communities that are not reached by standard Council communications practices. The Social Scientist Contractor will be tasked with identifying and engaging parties who are impacted by different Fishery Ecosystem Issues, but are not currently engaged in the Council process or impacted by Council communications. The types of appropriate engagements for underserved communities will vary by community and Fishery Ecosystem Issue. Some engagements will be most effective when provided in more formal communication products and meeting formats, and others will benefit from a more casual, in-person interaction. Each engagement plan will be developed once the contractor is procured and Fishery Ecosystem Issues are identified. In all cases, stakeholder engagements will be scheduled at the appropriate time for the various fishery stakeholders and result in a more robust understanding of the issue and angler perceptions.

Anticipated Deliverables and Outcomes:

Each Fishery Ecosystem Module will represent an important body of work that can be disseminated to stakeholders for feedback and provided to the Council as part of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan process. The results of the Module could stand alone and may be deemed appropriate by the Council and its scientific advisors for integration into the management process. Input gathered through the stakeholder engagement effort will be used to update the goals of the Council's Communication Plan as part of the Fishery Management Plan document, refine the communication portion within each Fishery Ecosystem Issue Module, and improve management and stakeholder engagement processes of the Council. The reports from the Social Scientist Contractor on Future Communication and Engagement Strategies for Communities, including underserved or underrepresented communities, will be considered by the Council and its appropriate advisory panels and technical committees for future operationalization.

Anticipated Components of each Draft Fishery Ecosystem Issue Module before the prioritization process and prior to the stakeholder engagements:

1. Introduction to the issue (e.g., key question, concerns, anticipated role of Council);
2. Workplan (e.g., literature review, data mining, collation and scale of data available for issue, identification of future data research and needs); and
3. Identification of Anticipated Disciplines' for Task Force or Interdisciplinary Planning Team to develop the Module.

Anticipated Final Components of each Fishery Ecosystem Issue Module:

1. Introduction to the issue (e.g., key question, concerns, anticipated role of Council);

2. Workplan (e.g., literature review, data mining, collation and scale of data available for issue, identification of future data research and needs);
3. Identification of Anticipated Disciplines' for Task Force or Interdisciplinary Planning Team to fully develop the model;
4. On ramps for management consideration and integration into the Fishery Ecosystem Plan and/or other ongoing management actions; and
5. Performance evaluation, includes identification of metrics of the process, and completed body of work within the Fishery Ecosystem Issue Module.

Ecosystem Summit for Extra Jurisdiction Issues

As part of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan, the Council is exploring avenues to involve partner agencies that play a role in the identified Fishery Ecosystem Issue. The Council anticipates that there will be a need for hosting a large summit to share the information resulting from the Fishery Ecosystem Issue Loop (e.g., stakeholder's impacts and concerns, status of a fishery, impacts of water quality and nearshore habitat distribution) with agencies that manage variables outside of the Council's jurisdiction. The Council plans to host a two-day summit on a topic or issue of choice that will bring together key fishermen, scientists, managers from partner agencies, and the media. This summit is expected to include up to 75 participants and will necessitate contracting with a meeting facilitator to fully engage all participants. This summit is anticipated to provide managers with options for engaging with state and federal partners that have a more direct influence on factors outside of the Council's jurisdiction, but affect managed species. For example, the Council does not have direct control or pathway to management for red tide, although it impacts numerous federally managed species and habitats. This may be an excellent topic for a summit.

Objective #2: Management Integration and Response

The second overarching objective for the Ecosystem Analyst will be developing procedures that will streamline the Council process and provide additional flexibility that is necessary to improve fisheries management in response to climate change. These efforts directly address two objectives of the IRA Climate Resilience Funding: *Developing and implementing measures or processes that increase the responsiveness of allocations or other management measures to climate impacts* and the priority to *Develop and Advance climate-related fisheries management planning, such as conducting climate scenario planning and implementation efforts that impact multiple stakeholders including those of underserved communities*. Not only does this second objective meet two of the IRA objectives, but it also captures the essence of a recent publication that interviewed all regional management Councils, and the results demonstrated that "Flexibility is the key to adaptive capacity" (Golden et al. 2023).

Prior to the Ecosystem Analyst initiating work on more flexible and streamlined management options, the Council will seek a Consultant to conduct a comprehensive program review of the Council and Southeast Regional Office process of developing federal fisheries management regulations, from early action considerations up to initiation of the rulemaking stage. Due to the highly participatory nature of federal fisheries management, and numerous requirements laid out in the many laws and Executive Orders that apply, there is an inherent tension between the

ability to be efficient and nimble and the time needed for both the Council to develop supporting documentation and for the Southeast Regional Office to review and prepare for rulemaking.

Anticipated Deliverables and Outcomes:

The results of the Consultant’s work will identify opportunities for improvement in the areas of efficiency and adaptability in our Council and regional processes for developing fishery management actions and regulations and their supporting documentation, to be more responsive to climate change and the risks and challenges that our fisheries face, while still addressing requirements for applicable laws and providing for meaningful opportunities for public input. The deliverable at the end of the Consultant’s work will allow the Council to operationalize the Regulatory Streamlining document that has been identified as a work in progress for some time. Once this work is completed the Ecosystem Analyst, in coordination with our typical amendment development process, could more expediently move forward with the regulatory streamlining for appropriate documents. At that time, the Council will need to work collaboratively with the Southeast Regional Office to develop the appropriate amendment(s).

Table of Proposed Activities and Expected Timeframes

Proposed Activity – Objective 1	Expected Timeframe
Conduct Interviews for Ecosystem Analyst	February 2024
Onboard Ecosystem Analyst	March 2024
Develop an Online Tool to Solicit Fishery Ecosystem Issues	April 2024
Ecosystem Technical Committee Meetings to Discuss FEP Process and Results from Fishery Ecosystem Issue Loop	June 2024, October 2024, February 2025, June 2025, February 2026
Single-day updates for SSC to review drafts of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan at appropriate intervals	January 2025, July 2025, and December 2025
Refine Fishery Ecosystem Issue Prioritization Process	August – September 2024
Outreach & Education Technical Committee meet	August or September 2024, 2025, and 2026
Develop Request for Applicants: Social Science Contractor	January 2025
Execute a Contract for Social Science Work	April 2025
Bring Stakeholder Engagement Plan for Fishery	April 2025

Ecosystem Issues to the Council for Review	
Review and Prioritize List of Fishery Ecosystem Issues for Work Continuation	June 2025
Execute Stakeholder Engagement Plan with Social Scientist Contractor for Fishery Ecosystem Issues and Drafts of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan	April through August 2025
Council reviews stakeholder feedback and finalizes Fishery Ecosystem Issues and Fishery Ecosystem Plan	October 2025
Council reviews final draft from Social Scientist Contractor on Future Communication and Engagement Strategies for Communities, including underserved communities	January 2026
Identify a Facilitator for the Summit	February 2026
Council hosts a Summit on Extra jurisdictional Issues that are outcomes from the Stakeholder Engagement and Fishery Ecosystem Issues processes	May 2026
Report Summit findings to Council and SSC	May and June 2026
Proposed Activity – Objective 2	Expected Timeframe
Develop Request for Applicants: Consultant to Conduct Comprehensive Review of Council and SERO regulatory processes	January 2025
Execute Contract for a Consultant to Complete Regulatory Review	April 2025
Consultant Completes work on Regulatory Review Processes	May through December 2025
Final Draft Report Presented to the Council	January 2026
Ecosystem Analyst and Supporting Council staff initiate work to Develop Comprehensive Regulatory Streamlining Amendment	February 2026
Draft of the Regulatory Streamlining Amendment presented to the Council	April 2026 and June 2026

Regulatory Streamlining Amendment is Completed and Reviewed by the Council	August 2026
Work is completed on all IRA objectives and final report is submitted to NOAA Fisheries	September 2026

Literature Cited:

Golden, A.S., M.S. Baskett, D. Holland, A. Levine, K. Mill, and T. Essington. 2023. Climate adaptation depends on rebalancing flexibility and rigidity in U.S. fisheries management. ICES Journal of Marine Science. Issue 1-8.

Wang, Z., T. Boyer, J. Reagan, and P. Hogan. 2023. Upper-Oceanic Warming in the Gulf of Mexico between 1950 and 2020. J. Climate, 36, 2721–2734, <https://doi.org/10.1175/JCLI-D-22-0409.1>.

6. Budget: Total request Phase II - \$1,826,606. The Gulf Council’s proposal is comprised of two overarching projects with numerous deliverables and outcomes expected to address the needs of the climate-ready fisheries program funding.

a. Personnel: \$377,241

Staff requested are 100% of the Ecosystem Analyst (GS 12/6) hired at the onset of the project for the period January 2026 through September 2026 and 100% of an Administrative Research Assistant budgeted at GS-10/6 from February 2024 through September 2026. Step Increases, the potential cost of living increases, and merit are included per year, per the Council’s policies.

Council member compensation is paid to eligible members based on days spent attending authorized meetings and may include one travel day that is paid at the rate required in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as allowed for in 50 CFR §600.245(a)(2). The daily rate is based on 8 hours and each calendar year is calculated to increase based on potential cost of living adjustments at:

- 2024 – \$566 per day
- 2025 – 4% increase over preceding year
- 2026 – 4% increase over preceding year

The daily stipend rate for eligible Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) members is \$350 per day, per Council policy.

b. Benefits: \$196,897

The associated benefits for this position include FICA/Medicare; health; dental; life/disability; and retirement. These costs are calculated based on a percentage in relationship to total salaries for FICA and 401K and the current year average demographics for premiums as a base for insurance with an inflationary factor for subsequent years of five percent for insurance benefits. The insurance increase is based on average historical cost increases.

c. Travel: \$374,150

Travel-related expenses are specified in the budget detail spreadsheet that is appended to this document, summarized in the Project Narrative, and highlighted in the activity timeline. Travel costs are determined by using the current GSA per diem rates for planned locations, with future-year costs calculated at approximately three percent over the prior year based on historical averages. Lodging rates may vary depending on the date of the meeting and an average rate is used for multiple meetings of the same type held in the same fiscal period but with different GSA rates. These differences are noted in the travel cost table. Airfare and car rental costs are calculated using the same method.

Foreign travel is not budgeted for any meetings. The Meeting Cost Table lists each meeting by type, number of days, and type of participants (Council, staff, SSC, AP, or other). The spreadsheet calculates the transportation costs by multiplying the number of members by the fixed costs. The spreadsheet also calculates the lodging and M&IE rates by multiplying the number of members by the number of days by the applicable daily rates.

d. Supplies: \$8,695

Supply costs include a laptop computer, software licensing, and a desk for the Administrative Research Assistant. General office supplies (paper, folders, pens) and software licensing costs are calculated for the last 9 months for the Ecosystem Analyst.

e. Contractual: \$639,945

This is the cost for vendor-supplied technology support, per user (\$145/ month) for network and workstation management. These costs are calculated for the entire 32 months for the Administrative Research Assistant and the last 9 months for the Ecosystem Analyst.

The Council will recruit and contract a qualified Social Scientist to assist with developing and executing a communications and engagement plan for the Fishery Ecosystem Plan process and its integration into management. This contractor will also assist with hosting Stakeholder Engagement meetings to engage stakeholders from many sectors and gather information throughout the Gulf states area. The contract will be awarded through an open and competitive application process based on education, skills, and experience. The budgeted cost for this contractor is no more than \$285,000.

The Council will recruit and contract a qualified meeting facilitator to work with the Ecosystem Analyst and Social Scientist Contractor to assist with planning, executing, and summarizing the actionable results of the Fishery Ecosystem Issues Summit meeting. The contract will be awarded through an open and competitive application process based on education, skills, and experience. The budgeted cost for this contractor will be no more than \$25,000 per meeting day, inclusive of all related meeting preparation, preparation of reports, and other expenditures related to the meeting.

The Council will seek a contracted Consultant to conduct a program review of the Council and Southeast Regional Office process. The goal will be to identify opportunities for improvement in the areas of efficiency and adaptability in our Council and regional processes. The contract will be awarded through an open and competitive application process based on education, skills, and experience. The budgeted cost for this contractor will be no more than \$295,000.

All meetings of the Council and SSC, are recorded and transcribed into verbatim minutes by a contracted Transcriptionist. This rate is currently \$9.00 per single-spaced transcribed page based on approximately 48 lines per page. The per-page cost for the Table of Contents and the Index is \$5.00 per page. The average cost to transcribe a meeting is \$1,000 per day.

f. Other: \$229,678

Communications costs include \$50 per month for phone service, \$9.50 per month for internet service, and \$18 per month for Ring (meeting and voice mail) services licensing. These costs are calculated for the entire 33 months for the Administrative Research Assistant and 9 months for the Ecosystem Analyst.

Meeting room rental costs are estimated based on the location and historical cost average for room rental rates for similar sized and types of meetings.

The Council will secure two to three database search engines for literature reviews through the ProQuest Platform LibGuide, such as ASFA: Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts¹; and Clarivate² Web of Science. The Council will also pay for full-text journal articles. The cost is estimated at \$5,000 per month.

¹ <https://proquest.libguides.com/asfa>

² <https://clarivate.libguides.com/webofscienceplatform/alldb>

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL					
Budget Table					
	Description	8M Yr 1 (2024)	12 M Yr 2 (2025)	12M Yr 3 (2026)	Total
a Personnel	Ecosystem Analyst - 100% - GS 12/6 - 9 months			84,901	
	Administrative Research Staff - 100% - GS 10/6	57,074	88,179	92,597	
	ETC Meetings				
	SSC Reviews				
	SSC Reviews				
	O&E TC Meetings				
	Steakholder Eng. ment				
	Summit				
	Summit				
	Summit Updates				
	Summit Updates				
			59,338	140,405	177,498
bBenefits	For Ecosystem Analyst and Admin Staff				
	FICA/ Medicare - 7.65%	4,366	6,746	13,579	
	Health	20,568	32,010	67,389	
	Dental/ Vision	518	806	2,095	
	Life/Disability	666	1,036	1,933	
	Retirement - 14 %	7,990	12,345	24,850	
		34,108	52,943	109,846	196,897
c Travel	Updates to the full Council at regular meetings One traveler - Ecosystem Analyst staff member Airfare (\$530), Lodging (\$153), Per diem (\$73)			6,028	
	Ecosystem Technical Committee - Tampa, Fl Travelers per ETC (15), Council (1), Other (2) Airfare (\$500), Lodging (\$145), Per diem (\$69)	14,094			
	2024 - (1 day)				
	2025 - (3 days)		44,388		
	2026 - (1 day)			15,840	
	SSC Reviews Fishery Ecosystem Plan - Tampa, Fl Travelers per SSC (20), Council (1), Other (2) Airfare (\$515), Avg Lodging (\$173), Per diem (\$71)			38,180	
	2025 - (2 days)				
	2026 - (1 day)			19,067	
O&E Technical Committee - Tampa, Fl Travelers per O&E (15), Council (1), Other (2) Airfare (\$500), Lodging (\$145), Per diem (\$69)	14,094				
2024 - (1 day)					
2025 - (1 day)		14,508			
2026 - (1 day)			14,922		

2025 - (5 meetings)	Stakeholder Engagement - Gulf Coast 1 day each trip- 5 travelers Airfare (\$515), Lodging (\$149), Per diem (\$71)		20,150		
2026 - (2 days)	Summit - St Pete, Fl- 75 travelers Airfare (\$530), Lodging (\$204), Per diem (\$73)			89,089	
2026 - (4 days)	Council/ SSC Summit updates - Tampa, FL Airfare (\$530), Lodging (\$179), Per diem (\$73)			83,790	
		28,188	117,226	228,736	374,150
d Equipment	N/A				-
e Supplies	Desk/ Furnishings Computer Software Licensing (MS 365, Adobe) Supplies (paper, pens, ink, etc)	4,150 3,500 160	240	420 225	
		7,810	240	645	8,695
f Contractual	IT support for FT staff Social Scientist Contractor - \$285 K Facilitator - Summit Workshop - \$25K/day Regulatory Streamlining Consultant - \$295 K Transcription - Avg/ \$1000/day	1,160 85,000	1,740 100,000 145,000	3,045 100,000 50,000 150,000 4,000	
		86,160	246,740	307,045	639,945
i Other	Communications Meeting Space - ETC/ O&E (\$750/day) Meeting Space - Stakeholder eng.ment (\$500/day) Meeting Space - Summit (\$25,000/day) Meeting Space - Council (\$2,500/day-tpa) Meeting Space - SSC (\$750/day -tpa) Journal/ Database access (\$5,000/ month)	620 1,500 40,000	930 3,000 2,500 1,500 60,000	1,628 750 50,000 5,000 2,250 60,000	
		42,120	67,930	119,628	229,678
Total Direct Charges		257,724	625,484	943,398	1,826,606

Meeting Cost Tables								
	No. of	Airfare/ Mileage		Lodging-Avg		Per Diem		
FY 2026	Meeting Days	Average		No.	Cost	No.	Cost	Totals
	4	530		153		73		
Staff - Ecosystem Analyst		1	530	1	612	1	365	\$1,507
								\$1,507
Travel to Council Meetings - 2026		Gulf Region		No. Meetings -		4		\$6,028
	No. of	Airfare/ Mileage		Lodging		Per Diem		
FY 2024	Meeting Days	Average		No.	Cost	No.	Cost	Totals
	1	500		145		69		
Council Members		1	500	1	145	1	138	\$783
ETC Members		15	7500	15	2175	15	2070	\$11,745
Others		2	1000	2	290	2	276	\$1,566
								\$14,094
Ecosystem Technical Committee		Tampa, FL		No. Meetings -		1		\$14,094
	No. of	Airfare/ Mileage		Lodging-Avg		Per Diem		
FY 2025	Meeting Days	Average		No.	Cost	No.	Cost	Totals
	1	515		165		71		
Council Members		1	515	1	165	1	142	\$822
ETC Members		15	7725	15	2475	15	2130	\$12,330
Others		2	1030	2	330	2	284	\$1,644
								\$14,796
Ecosystem Technical Committee		Tampa, FL		No. Meetings -		3		\$44,388
	No. of	Airfare/ Mileage		Lodging		Per Diem		
FY 2026	Meeting Days	Average		No.	Cost	No.	Cost	Totals
	1	530		204		73		
Council Members		1	530	1	204	1	146	\$880
ETC Members		15	7950	15	3060	15	2190	\$13,200
Others		2	1060	2	408	2	292	\$1,760
								\$15,840
Ecosystem Technical Committee		Tampa, FL		No. Meetings -		1		\$15,840

Tab G, No. 8

	No. of	Airfare/ Mileage		Lodging-Avg		Per Diem		
FY 2025	Meeting Days	Average		No.	Cost	No.	Cost	Totals
	1	515		173		71		
Council Members		1	515	1	173	1	142	\$830
SSC Members		20	10300	20	3460	20	2840	\$16,600
Others		2	1030	2	346	2	284	\$1,660
								\$19,090
SSC Meeting - single day update		Tampa, FL		No. Meetings - 2				\$38,180

	No. of	Airfare/ Mileage		Lodging		Per Diem		
FY 2026	Meeting Days	Average		No.	Cost	No.	Cost	Totals
	1	530		153		73		
Council Members		1	530	1	153	1	146	\$829
SSC Members		20	10600	20	3060	20	2920	\$16,580
Others		2	1060	2	306	2	292	\$1,658
								\$19,067
SSC Meeting - single day update		Tampa, FL		No. Meetings - 1				\$19,067

	No. of	Airfare/ Mileage		Lodging		Per Diem		
FY 2024	Meeting Days	Average		No.	Cost	No.	Cost	Totals
	1	500		145		69		
Council Members		1	500	1	145	1	138	\$783
O&E Members		15	7500	15	2175	15	2070	\$11,745
Others		2	1000	2	290	2	276	\$1,566
								\$14,094
Outreach & Education Technical Committee		Tampa, FL		No. Meetings - 1				\$14,094

	No. of	Airfare/ Mileage		Lodging		Per Diem		
FY 2025	Meeting Days	Average		No.	Cost	No.	Cost	Totals
	1	515		149		71		
Council Members		1	515	1	149	1	142	\$806
O&E Members		15	7725	15	2235	15	2130	\$12,090
Others		2	1030	2	298	2	284	\$1,612
								\$14,508
Outreach & Education Technical Committee		Tampa, FL		No. Meetings - 1				\$14,508

Tab G, No. 8

	No. of	Airfare/ Mileage		Lodging		Per Diem		
FY 2026	Meeting Days	Average		No.	Cost	No.	Cost	Totals
	1	530		153		73		
Council Members		1	530	1	153	1	146	\$829
O&E Members		15	7950	15	2295	15	2190	\$12,435
Others		2	1060	2	306	2	292	\$1,658
								\$14,922
Outreach & Education Technical Committee		Tampa, FL		No. Meetings - 1				\$14,922

	No. of	Airfare/ Mileage		Lodging		Per Diem		
FY 2025	Meeting Days	Average		No.	Cost	No.	Cost	Totals
	1	515		149		71		
Council Members		1	515	1	149	1	142	\$806
Staff		3	1545	3	447	3	426	\$2,418
Others		1	515	1	149	1	142	\$806
								\$4,030
Stakeholder Engagement		Gulf Region		No. Meetings - 5				\$20,150

	No. of	Airfare/ Mileage		Lodging		Per Diem		
FY 2026	Meeting Days	Average		No.	Cost	No.	Cost	Totals
	2	530		204		73		
Council Members		17	9010	17	6936	17	3723	\$19,669
SSC		2	1060	2	816	2	438	\$2,314
Staff		18	9540	18	7344	18	3942	\$20,826
Others		40	21200	40	16320	40	8760	\$46,280
								\$89,089
Summit on Extra jurisdictional Issues		St Petersburg, FL		No. Meetings - 1				\$89,089

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	No. of	Airfare/ Mileage		Lodging-Avg		Per Diem		
FY 2026	Meeting Days	Average		No.	Cost	No.	Cost	Totals
	1	530		179		73		
Council Members		1	530	1	179	1	146	\$855
SSC		20	10600	20	3580	20	2920	\$17,100
Others		5	2650	5	895	5	730	\$4,275
								\$22,230
Report Summit findings to SSC		Tampa, FL		No. Meetings -		2		\$44,460
	No. of	Airfare/ Mileage		Lodging-Avg		Per Diem		
FY 2026	Meeting Days	Average		No.	Cost	No.	Cost	Totals
	1	530		179		73		
Council Members		17	9010	17	3043	17	2482	\$14,535
SSC		1	530	1	179	1	146	\$855
Others		5	2650	5	895	5	730	\$4,275
								\$19,665
Report Summit findings to Council		Tampa, FL		No. Meetings -		2		\$39,330
							4	\$83,790