Marriott Courtyard
Gulfport, Mississippi

April 17, 2018

VOTING MEMBERS
Paul Mickle (designee for Joe Spraggins)..............Mississippi
Patrick Banks........................................Louisiana
Dale Diaz........................................Mississippi
Tom Frazer..........................................Florida
Johnny Greene.......................................Alabama
Johnny Greene.......................................Alabama
Robin Riechers....................................Texas
John Sanchez.......................................Florida
Bob Shipp...........................................Florida

NON-VOTING MEMBERS
Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon)................Alabama
Leann Bosarge........................................Mississippi
Doug Boyd...........................................Texas
Roy Crabtree.........................................NMFS
Dave Donaldson.....................................GSMFC
Phil Dyskow.........................................Florida
Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley).........Florida
Campo Matens........................................Louisiana
Greg Stunz...........................................Texas
LT Mark Zanowicz....................................USCG

STAFF
Steven Atran........................................Senior Fishery Biologist
Assane Diagne......................................Economist
Matt Freeman........................................Economist
John Froeschke.....................................Fishery Biologist-Statistician
Douglas Gregory..................................Executive Director
Beth Hager............................................Administrative Officer
Morgan Kilgour......................................Fishery Biologist
Ava Lasseter........................................Anthropologist
Mara Levy............................................NOAA General Counsel
Ryan Rindone......................................Fishery Biologist & SEDAR Liaison
Bernadine Roy........................................Office Manager
Camilla Shireman..................................Administrative and Communications Assistant
Carrie Simmons....................................Deputy Director

OTHER PARTICIPANTS
Pam Anderson.......................................Panama City Beach, FL
Greg Ball...........................................Galveston Professional Boaters Association, TX
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Luiz Barbieri</td>
<td>GMFMC SSC</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Ryan Bradley</td>
<td>MS Commercial Fisheries United, MS</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Eric Brazer</td>
<td>Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance</td>
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<td>J.P. Brooker</td>
<td>Ocean Conservancy, St. Petersburg, FL</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Mark Brown</td>
<td>SAFMC</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>James Bruce</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Gary Bryant</td>
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<td>Dan Buckley</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Blake Compeant</td>
<td>St. Larose, LA</td>
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<td>Laura Deighan</td>
<td>Audubon Institute</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Michael Drexler</td>
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<td>Mike Falgout</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Traci Floyd</td>
<td>MDMR, Biloxi, MS</td>
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<td>Rick Hart</td>
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<td>Alicia Paul</td>
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<td>Corky Perret</td>
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<td>Ruth Perry</td>
<td>Shell, Houston, TX</td>
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<td>Laura Picariello</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Clay Porch</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Lance Robinson</td>
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<td>Jessica Stephen</td>
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<td>Donna Tryon</td>
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<td>Panama City, FL</td>
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PAGE 11: Motion to accept the 2018 activities and budget as written. The motion carried on page 11.
The Administrative/Budget Committee of the Gulf of Mexico
Fishery Management Council convened at the Marriott Courtyard,
Gulfport Mississippi, Tuesday morning, April 17, 2018, and was
called to order by Chairman Paul Mickle.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS

CHAIRMAN PAUL MICKLE: I would like to convene the Admin/Budget
Committee, which consists of myself, Mr. Riechers as Vice Chair,
Mr. Banks, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Greene, Mr. Sanchez, Dr. Shipp, and Dr.
Frazer.

First up, I think I would like to draw your attention to Tab G,
Number 1, Adoption of the Agenda. It’s up on the board. It’s a
short agenda. Do I have a motion? It’s moved and seconded. Is
there any objection? The motion passes.

Next, we will move to Approval of the January 2018 Minutes, Tab
G, Number 2. Do I have a motion to -- Are there any changes or
discussion points on the minutes? All right. It’s moved and
seconded, and the motion carries. Moving on to the Action Guide
and Next Steps, Tab G, Number 3, and Mr. Director.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOUG GREGORY: What we’re going to do today
is just review the anticipated 2018 budget and the activities
that we anticipate doing this year. Beth Hager will go over the
budget, and Dr. Simmons will do the activities, and this is for
information for the council. When we get our final funding from
National Marine Fisheries Service, if it changes, we will bring
it back for another approval of the budget. As it stands, this
is based on information we were given at the Council
Coordinating Committee meeting as to what we were going to
receive this year. One final thing is we want the council to
approve this budget at this point in time.

CHAIRMAN MICKLE: All right. Thank you. With that, let’s move
into Review of Proposed Budget and Activities, Tab G, Number
4(a), and Dr. Simmons.

REVIEW OF GRANT EXPENDITURES AND ANTICIPATED BUDGET ACTIVITIES
AND FUNDING

REVIEW OF PROPOSED 2018 BUDGETED ACTIVITIES

DR. CARRIE SIMMONS: Good morning, and thank you, Mr. Chair. I
am going to read these and make a few notes as we go through
them, but I will try to do it quickly. Of course, we have our
five council meetings and the four South Atlantic Council
meetings, with one council member liaison attending. We have
included the Council Coordinating Committee meetings on here as
well, and we have two, one in February and one in May.

As far as SSC meetings go -- I should also note that the
asterisk, and I apologize, indicates the activities in those
months that have already been conducted in 2018, and so, for the
SSC meetings, we’re going to re-advertise after the April
council meeting, and the council will repopulate the Standing
and Special SSCs in June.

One of the items that the council worked on in January was
adding a Special Ecosystem SSC, and so we have indicated on here
that we think one of the -- We will convene them with the
Standing SSC hopefully later this year, and so five Standing SSC
meetings, and we already had one in January and March, and three
Special Socioeconomic SSC meetings, and they were already
convened in January and March, and we anticipate convening them
again later in the year, most likely to work on the reallocation
document.

We almost always convene the Special Reef Fish SSC with the
Standing SSC, and so they have been convened in January and
March, and one Special Shrimp SSC, and they have already been
convened in March. Again, as I mentioned earlier, the Ecosystem
SSC will be populated, and so we anticipate that we will convene
them later in June with the Standing SSC. Possibly another
Special Coral SSC, and they were already convened in January of
this year, but maybe later in the year we will need them again
if we do start work on Coral Amendment 10.

On to advisory panel meetings. We anticipate another Red
Snapper/Grouper-Tilefish IFQ meeting, and we had one in April,
right before the council meeting, and so we think we’ll have
another one later in the year, and one Ad Hoc Reef Fish Headboat
AP, one Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter/For-Hire AP, one Ad Hoc Red
Snapper Private Angler AP, and we’ve already had one in January,
and that report was given to the council in January.

One Coral AP, one Mackerel AP, one Reef Fish AP, and two Shrimp
APs, and we’ve already had one in April, and so possibly another
one later in the year, especially if we start work on that coral
document, and then the HMS ICCAT AP, and we’ve already had one
in March, and I think Mr. Matens attended that meeting.

As far as technical committees go, two Law Enforcement
Committees and one Outreach and Education Committee meeting. We
have that scheduled in May, for the Outreach and Education. Then, for the SEDAR meetings, I have listed them here, and these meetings involve the staff and then the SSC stipends, and so we anticipate a heavy SSC agenda in May, where we’re going to be reviewing several assessments. We have gray snapper and hogfish and red snapper. We are anticipating those in May.

We also anticipate that the MRIP calibration updates will take up quite a bit of time later in the year, and it will probably take up a lot of the SSC members’ time, once we get those after the July meeting.

As far as public hearings, this looks like quite a bit, and I’m not sure that we could get all of these done this year, but we have put them down, in anticipation that we could possibly complete them, and they are included in the budget that Beth is going to present, and so nine coral meetings, eight hearings in-person and one webinar, and we’re planning to have one webinar for Spiny Lobster 13, and we anticipate having in-person meetings, seven hearings, and one webinar for the Reef Fish Amendment 36B, and that’s the commercial IFQ modifications.

Just a webinar for the status determination criteria document, and a webinar for the sea turtle document, which is administrative, and, for the state management plans, we have planned for eight hearings and one webinar. For Reef Fish Amendments 41 and 42, we anticipate, if those move forward and we have a public hearing draft, that we could possibly do those together, and so eight hearings across the Gulf in-person and one webinar.

The generic carryover document, one webinar, because we don’t anticipate that we have a whole lot of interest in that, and then if there is some other public hearing or scoping document that we need to take out, such as allocation or some other document that happens this year, we have budgeted for eight additional hearings or scoping meetings. That concludes my report.

CHAIRMAN MICKLE: Thank you, Dr. Simmons. Any discussion on these budget activities pertaining to the budget itself? Mr. Banks.

MR. PATRICK BANKS: I just have a question about the process that we go through to determine where we have meetings and things like that. It seems like, and I know you all probably negotiate it, and so maybe it’s a lot cheaper than I’m thinking, but I look at the schedule and I see us going to places like Key
West or Destin in June, and it seems to be very, very expensive, and can somebody explain sort of the process you all go through to try to get the best price for council meetings?

CHAIRMAN MICKLE: Mr. Gregory.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Well, the office, Kathy Pereira, our Travel Coordinator, sends out -- Once the Chair or Vice Chair of the council selects locations, cities, then we send out a request for bids, so to speak, for hotels in all the cities for all the months that we’re going to meet.

For instance, for Destin, we would say what availability do you have for January, April, June, August, and October, and we do that for all of the locations, and we then get together and choose the hotels. They have to give us GSA room rates, and we look to see how expensive the meeting rooms are.

What we’ve looked at in the past -- Because, like Galveston, everybody has to rent a car, and I was concerned about that, but those factors don’t seem to vary. It doesn’t matter if we go to Key West, where we have an expensive hotel, or we go to Galveston and a less-expensive hotel and rent a car. The costs come out to be about the same.

CHAIRMAN MICKLE: Madam Chair.

MS. LEANN BOSARGE: Actually, when I looked at that, because I was the one that looked at all the different costs, I was surprised too, Patrick, but, actually, it was cheaper to go to Florida in June, and I was surprised, and so I actually switched the dates around.

We got some new bids from some different hotels in Florida that we had not been to before, and I don’t know if they wanted our business or what the deal was, but I was able to switch the dates around as to what cities we were going to and what dates and save us a considerable amount of money, and so, in other words, we do look at it, and we make sure we’re getting the best deal.

CHAIRMAN MICKLE: Any other discussion pertaining to budget activities? All right. With that, I will move on to Item 4(b), 2018 Proposed Budget, Tab G, Number 4(b), and Ms. Hager.

2018 PROPOSED BUDGET

MS. BETH HAGER: As we turn to Tab G, Number 4(b), we’ll see the
2017 budget presented alongside the 2018 budget. The federal appropriations process has been off-track again this year, which forced us to operate under a continuing resolution. This lag has again created some uncertainty in our final funding numbers for 2018.

With this budget, we have based our anticipated 2018 funding figure of $3,655,000 on our last instructions from the CCC meeting, and this figure is equal to the 2017 funding minus a small rescission. As Doug stated, if the final funding differs, we will let the council know and provide an amended budget for review and approval at that time.

Going down through the personnel costs, council and SSC salaries are budgeted to increase slightly due to the planned meeting activity, and staff salaries were underspent by $32,000 in 2017, and so, between the staff transitions and the new three-year coral award, we anticipate that this budget amount will support our 2018 staffing needs. FICA and retirement are both proportional calculations based on the staff salaries.

In January, we changed our health insurance providers and switched to a policy with higher out-of-pocket maximum for the employee, and this will result in an over $60,000 savings to the council. We have not budgeted to add funds to our leave accounts in 2018. Typically, we make these adjustments to our leave accounts in the last five years of the grant period. In this award, it will be 2019.

Scrolling down to travel, as travel costs are based directly on the anticipated meeting activities for 2018, as Carrie stated, we have an ambitious schedule planned. Overall, we plan to hold five more SSC meetings, one less AP meeting, and nine more scoping public hearings than we planned in 2017. The other travel line includes travel for the executive director interview process and technical committees.

To the next page, our other costs, we have $9,000 in the capital equipment line, and that was used to replace our file backup device, and it was necessary, because our device was running out of space. It was originally purchased in 2013, but this new unit has doubled our available archiving capacity.

We have located new office space very near our current location, and it's comparable in size to our current office, and so we anticipate holding most AP and SSC meetings onsite. This adds to the reduction that we can achieve in the meeting room rental costs.
Although we will incur some costs related to the move, we still anticipate the net savings of about $45,000 just in this first year in rent and approximately 30 percent over the next years out in our rental costs. There are some additional costs related to moving, and these can be found in supplies and contractual expenses and printing. We have maintained the liaison funding at $45,000 per state. This concludes our budget.

CHAIRMAN MICKLE: Mr. Gregory.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: I would just like to make a quick announcement. The internet service for the entire hotel is down right now, and so it’s not your computer you’re having trouble with, and we’re still streaming, but without sound and pictures, and so people can see our projectors, but not -- I guess they can’t see anything. We are trying to stream.

CHAIRMAN MICKLE: Madam Bosarge.

MS. BOSARGE: Patrick, just a clarification. When I was talking about new hotels for Florida, that’s for 2019, just FYI, and sorry, but I’m always one year ahead when we’re trying to book those.

CHAIRMAN MICKLE: Mr. Banks.

MR. BANKS: I have a question about contractual. I heard Beth mention that there were some moving-related -- What else would be -- Can you give me some more examples under contractual, please?

MS. HAGER: 401K fees, payroll processing fees, contracted service providers for IT, technical-related items, our biannual audit, just pretty much anything that we pay an outside vendor that would be a service-related item.

CHAIRMAN MICKLE: Director Gregory.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: She left out the biggest, the state liaisons are contractual, as well as the transcription service that we get.

CHAIRMAN MICKLE: I want to commend the council staff for going through the move, and I’m sure moving is not easy, but it’s showing here now that it was obviously a smart decision, and it takes away that uncertainty, but how long have you all been in
that building, the one you all just move out of? Dr. Simmons.

DR. SIMMONS: It’s been almost twelve years, I believe, because it’s been ten years that I’ve been there, and we’ve been there since I’ve been in the office, and so twelve years.

CHAIRMAN MICKLE: Now that you’re out of it, I can knock it. It was kind of an older building, and so I hope the new building is newer? No? Never mind then. All right. Moving on, any other discussion on the proposed budget at this point? All right, and so the last item on the agenda is Other Business, and I would open the floor to any other business to be brought up at this point. Director Gregory.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: We would like to get a motion to approve the budget.

CHAIRMAN MICKLE: Yes, that’s right.

MR. DALE DIAZ: So moved.

CHAIRMAN MICKLE: Is there a second? It’s seconded by Mr. Greene. Any objections to accepting the 2018 proposed budget activities? The motion passes. This concludes the Administrative/Budget Committee.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on April 17, 2018.)