

1 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2
3 ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET COMMITTEE

4
5 Omni Hotel Corpus Christi, Texas

6
7 August 22, 2022

8
9 **VOTING MEMBERS**

10 Phil Dyskow.....Florida
11 Susan Boggs.....Alabama
12 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
13 Bob Gill.....Florida
14 Chris Schieble (designee for Patrick Banks).....Louisiana
15 Bob Shipp.....Alabama
16 Joe Spraggins.....Mississippi
17 C.J. Sweetman (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
18 Troy Williamson.....Texas

19
20 **NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

21 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
22 Billy Broussard.....Louisiana
23 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
24 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana
25 Dakus Geeslin (designee for Robin Riechers).....Texas
26 Michael McDermott.....Mississippi
27 Peter Hook (designee for Andy Strelcheck).....NMFS
28 Greg Stunz.....Texas

29
30 **STAFF**

31 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director
32 Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer
33 Lisa Hollensead.....Fishery Biologist
34 Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
35 Mary Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
36 Natasha Mendez-Ferrer.....Fishery Biologist
37 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer
38 Ryan Rindone.....Lead Fishery Biologist/SEDAR Liaison
39 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
40 Charlotte Schiaffo.....Administrative & Human Resources Assistant
41 Camilla Shireman.....Administrative & Communications Assistant
42 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director
43 Carly Somerset.....Fisheries Outreach Specialist

44
45 **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

46 Tim Griner.....SAFMC
47 John Walter.....SEFSC

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1 The Administrative/Budget Committee of the Gulf of Mexico
2 Fishery Management Council convened at The Omni Hotel in Corpus
3 Christi, Texas on Monday morning, August 22, 2022, and was
4 called to order by Chairman Phil Dyskow.

5
6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
9

10 **CHAIRMAN PHIL DYSKOW:** I would like to call the meeting of the
11 Admin and Budget Committee to order. The voting members of this
12 committee are myself, Phil Dyskow, Dr. Bob Shipp, who is also
13 Vice Chair, Patrick Banks, Susan Boggs, Dave Donaldson, Bob
14 Gill, Jessica McCawley or designee, General Joe Spraggins, and
15 Troy Williamson.

16
17 I would like to remind the members that, at the committee level,
18 only committee members can vote, and we certainly would take
19 questions from anyone, but only active committee members may
20 vote, and so the first item on the agenda is in fact the
21 Adoption of the Agenda, and so do I have a motion to adopt the
22 agenda as written?

23
24 **UNIDENTIFIED:** So moved.

25
26 **MR. DAVE DONALSON:** Second.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Any objection? The agenda is adopted.
29 Second, we would like to approve the minutes of our April 2022
30 meeting, and I need a motion to approve that.

31
32 **MR. BOB GILL:** So moved, Mr. Chairman.

33
34 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** I need a second. Okay. We have a motion and
35 a second, and do we have any objection to the approval of the
36 minutes from the last meeting? Okay. The minutes are approved.
37 We'll move right into the Action Guide and Next Steps, which
38 will be handled by Dr. Simmons, and, Dr. Simmons, I will turn it
39 over to you.

40
41 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** Good morning. Thank you,
42 Mr. Chair. We have two main agenda items today for
43 Admin/Budget. The first is the review and approval of our final
44 funded 2022 budget, and then the second item is we have three
45 proposed changes to the council's SOPPs, the Statement of
46 Organization, Practices, and Procedures, and that's in Tab G,
47 Number 5, and we would like motions, and they be all together or
48 individually, for both of those items, please.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Simmons, I don't think the committee knows
3 exactly what you just asked for.
4

5 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** We can go ahead and get into the
6 agenda items, if that's okay, Mr. Chair, and we'll start with
7 the budget.
8

9 **REVIEW FINAL 2022 FUNDED BUDGET AND ACTIVITIES**

10
11 **MS. BETH HAGER:** In Tab G, Number 4, we're presenting you all
12 with the initial draft 2022 budget, alongside the draft funded
13 2022 budget, and Bernie is getting that up on the screen. The
14 figures are presented rounded to thousands, and the total
15 funding received was \$4,143,000. This is just \$18,200 less than
16 the original estimated funding, and this also reflects our total
17 funding for 2022. The committee will be asked to approve the
18 2022 proposed funded budget at this meeting.
19

20 In revising this budget, staff have taken our actual costs
21 incurred to-date into account and refined our projections for
22 the year. The budget areas with the largest adjustments are
23 travel, stipends, and contractual services. These are areas
24 that often show sizeable fluctuations, as they're sensitive to
25 uncontrolled factors, including meeting attendance, outside
26 vendor costs, and priority changes in ongoing initiatives.
27

28 In adjusting the travel-related costs for this budget, the year-
29 to-date actual costs account for the reduction in projections.
30 All of the advisory committee meetings that were budgeted to be
31 held fully in-person however, because the actual attendance was
32 largely virtual, the costs were lower. The remaining meetings
33 are still budgeted to be held in-person, as we recognize this
34 often the preferred meeting format.
35

36 The stipend budgets were increased, based on the usage to-date,
37 and that's offset by the decrease in travel costs. Staff
38 benefits reflect a small decrease, due to the change in our
39 census. We did increase supplies, though slightly, because we
40 started traveling and discovered that some of our equipment
41 needed to be replaced and refurbished. Some of this increase
42 was offset by decreases in printing and shipping, as we are
43 continuing to increase the use of digital mediums.
44

45 Contractual costs were increased by a net of \$17,000. This
46 adjustment includes the meeting facilitators for our IFQ working
47 group, council meeting ongoing development, which should finally
48 occur in November, and the adaptation for the Fish Rules app,

1 which will allow us to deploy it from our website. Do we have
2 any questions at this time? Yes, sir.

3
4 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Beth, where do we stand,
5 actual versus funded budget, just roughly?

6
7 **MS. HAGER:** For the entire five-year period? We actually are --
8 We do have carryover at this point, and we were funded
9 \$3,964,000 in 2020, \$3,904,000 in 2021, and then this \$4,000,000
10 in 2022, and so, overall, we're still carrying, after accounting
11 for all of the contracts, \$695,000, up through to 2022.

12
13 **MR. GILL:** Thank you.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Are there any more questions regarding the
16 approved CY2022 budget? If not, I would entertain a motion to
17 approve the budget from a council member.

18
19 **DR. C.J. SWEETMAN:** I have a question.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Yes, sir.

22
23 **DR. SWEETMAN:** I apologize, and I wish I could be there. I just
24 had a quick question, and I was wondering -- I appreciate you
25 going over what was covered in the contractual component, and I
26 had a question there, but a side question is I was wondering if
27 there's any money that is allocated to go to SERO within this
28 budget.

29
30 **MS. HAGER:** No, we don't have anything additional at this point
31 earmarked for SERO, any recissions or anything else. This is
32 accounted. I'm sorry, but could you also repeat the question,
33 and I think that some folks here didn't hear it clearly.

34
35 **DR. SWEETMAN:** I'm sorry, and my question was if there was any
36 money that was allocated to go to SERO here, and I think you
37 answered that question, saying that, no, this was not covered in
38 here, and my other question was actually -- I think you answered
39 it already, and I was curious what was covered in the
40 contractual, if there's anything else in addition to the three
41 components that you mentioned there.

42
43 **MS. HAGER:** I'm sorry, C.J. I didn't understand your last
44 question clearly, and could you please repeat that again?

45
46 **DR. SWEETMAN:** I have the question answered. You covered what
47 was in the contractual and that was my only other part.

48

1 **MS. HAGER:** Thank you. Sorry about that.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mr. Gill.

4
5 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. **I move approval of the**
6 **final 2022 funded budget.**

7
8 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Do I have a second for that motion? Very
9 good. Is there any discussion on this motion, or are we all
10 clear on what we're doing? **If so, is there any objection to**
11 **approving the CY2022 budget? If not, the motion carries.** Dr.
12 Simmons, I will pass it back over to you for the SOPPs
13 discussion.

14
15 **REVIEW AND DISCUSS PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO COUNCIL'S SOPPS**

16
17 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you. If we could take a look
18 at Tab G, Number 5, and we'll start with Section 2.3.3,
19 Officers, and so, in 2010, the council amended this section to
20 include the following language: "Alternate representatives,
21 designee, or principal do not assume these officers, but may
22 participate as members of the committees."

23
24 For a period of time, and there's a draft agenda that's in your
25 background materials that is posted, Tab G, Number 5(a), we
26 noted the presence of a designee with an asterisk on that
27 applicable agenda. Since then, we've discussed this section of
28 the SOPPs with Ms. Levy, and we haven't really explicitly
29 followed this practice, and so there seems to be a bit of
30 confusion about this. We've really just kind of left it up to
31 the technical staff member, the chair, and vice chair running
32 that committee as to who is going to run it.

33
34 We have recommended some clarifying language in the SOPPs. It's
35 just this last part, to make it clear that we're talking about -
36 - When we're talking about the council chair or vice chair
37 versus the committee chair or vice chair, and so, for example,
38 for Reef Fish, today, Dr. Tom Frazer can't run the committee,
39 and he'll be traveling, and I think Patrick is our principal,
40 but we would allow Mr. Schieble to run the committee, as our
41 designee, and so that's what we're seeking clarification on, if
42 that makes sense, Mr. Chair.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** We have two choices here. We have a number of
45 changes to the SOPPs, and we're struggling with whether we
46 should vote on them individually or all together at the end of
47 this presentation, and does the committee have a preference?
48 Mr. Gill.

1
2 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given the options that are
3 in the subsequent sections, I would suggest that we make motion
4 for each one individually, in case there is differences on some
5 of those options.
6
7 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Any other comments on that? Yes, ma'am.
8
9 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just for clarification,
10 Dr. Simmons, if Patrick Banks is the chair of the council, Chris
11 cannot run the council meeting in absence.
12
13 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Correct, the way this is written.
14
15 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mr. Gill.
16
17 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. **I move that we approve the**
18 **proposed changes in Section 2.3.3, and, Bernie, that's the first**
19 **motion that I just sent you.**
20
21 **GENERAL JOE SPRAGGINS:** I second.
22
23 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** We have a motion and a second. Is there any
24 discussion on this? Again, we can have a committee vote then.
25 **All in favor; any opposition. If not, the motion carries.** Dr.
26 Simmons.
27
28 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If we could
29 go -- The next section we have is Section 2.6, Advisory Panels,
30 Fishing Industry, and Advisory Committees, and then Subsection
31 2.6.2, Members and Chair, and so this addresses the background
32 checks for the fishing violations that are completed prior to
33 final population of our advisory panels, and so we have some
34 additional language that we have proposed here to clarify on the
35 violations that result in a written warning and subsequent
36 finding of liability through adjudication, settlement, or
37 default and meet the criterion for a fishing violation.
38
39 There is also another section regarding the discovery of a
40 fishing violation of an advisory panel member subsequent to
41 their appointment, with two options for the committee to
42 discuss, and so sorry that it's kind of split.
43
44 We'll start with the presence of a fishing violation is an
45 important aspect in consideration of an advisory panel
46 appointment. The council has determined, 1) applicable fishing
47 violations include only violations of federally-managed species
48 in either state or federal waters, and we're suggesting adding

1 "regardless of the penalty, and that is written warning, civil
2 fine, or criminal conviction; 2) individuals are ineligible to
3 serve on an advisory panel within three years of the final, and
4 we suggested added "final", finding of liability through
5 adjudication, settlement, or default. We also suggest adding "a
6 finding of liability is final after any applicable appeal period
7 expires", and I believe that's typically sixty days. Then
8 3)Vessel owners shall not automatically be held responsible for
9 violations by a crew member when the owner is not present.

10
11 It's suggesting those changes there, and there's an either/or
12 for the next two sections that the committee probably should
13 discuss, and so we're either proposing -- If an individual who
14 is currently serving on an advisory panel is found to have a
15 fishing violation that meets the preceding criteria, subsequent
16 to their appointment, the decision to maintain or remove the
17 individual from the AP is at the council's discretion, or, if an
18 individual who is currently serving on an advisory panel is
19 found to have a fishing violation that meets the preceding
20 criteria, subsequent to their appointment on the AP, the
21 individual will be removed from any AP, including ad hoc APs and
22 technical committees. Mr. Chair.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Dr. Simmons. Is there any
25 discussion about this? It's a lot of words. Mr. Gill.

26
27 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support the original
28 recommendation for a change and not the alternative, and,
29 Bernie, if you could pull up my second motion. **I move to**
30 **approve the proposed changes in Section 2.6.2 and not approve**
31 **the proposed alternative.**

32
33 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay. We have a motion. Do we have a second?
34 Bob, perhaps you could give us a little more rationale, so we
35 can decide how to go forward on this motion.

36
37 **MR. GILL:** Well, the distinction, as Dr. Simmons mentioned, is,
38 if somebody is already appointed to an AP, as to whether they
39 stay on the AP or are automatically disengaged or whether it
40 comes back to the council to address the violation and the
41 individual, and it seems, to me, that addressing the individual
42 circumstances makes more sense than immediately taking off of an
43 AP a member who can provide significant advice to the council.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you for that discussion. We're still
46 short of a second, and so I think I would first entertain a
47 second, if it's out there, and then have further discussion at
48 that point. Is there a second for this motion?

1
2 **DR. BOB SHIPP:** I will.
3
4 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay. Dr. Shipp seconds the motion. Now is
5 there any further discussion on this motion? Yes.
6
7 **MR. J.D. DUGAS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not on your
8 committee, and, Dr. Simmons, just some clarification. This
9 allows us, the council, to remove an individual at any time we
10 feel that we need to?
11
12 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** We're not changing that section.
13 This is just -- It's really just putting in writing what the
14 council has done, this part, as currently written, versus
15 putting in writing something that may be more, I guess, strict,
16 for lack of a better term.
17
18 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** As I understand it, J.D., all we're doing here
19 is giving the council the discretion to remove a committee
20 member in the instance of a violation of fishery regulations,
21 but we have an option to either do it or don't do it. We just
22 examine it and make a decision on a case-by-case basis. Ms.
23 Boggs.
24
25 **MS. BOGGS:** Thank you, and so a question to council staff. Once
26 we vote to populate these APs and ad hocs, and we do the
27 background checks, is that something that we monitor, or do we
28 look at it again at the next appointment period, because I'm
29 kind of torn. I mean, if it's going to be a burden to the
30 council staff, to have to keep track of this, that might sway me
31 one way or another, but it's hard for me to say that we reward
32 someone -- A warning is kind of strict, but, if someone has
33 actually been convicted, it seems like you're rewarding a bad
34 player for doing something wrong, and that, to me, doesn't seem
35 right.
36
37 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Did I have another question? Dave.
38
39 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Building on what Ms.
40 Boggs says, if this person had a violation while we were going
41 through the appointment process, they would not be eligible, and
42 it doesn't seem -- Just because they got a violation after, it
43 doesn't seem like they should be allowed to stay on, and so I
44 agree with what Susan says. I know it's kind of -- It's a
45 little more strict, but it's also much more clear-cut and within
46 the rules that we've laid out.
47
48 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

1
2 **MR. DALE DIAZ:** To try to answer Ms. Boggs' question, when we're
3 appointing people to a committee, we're going to do background
4 checks. We're going to send it out to the states, and the feds
5 is going to check in their system. Once the people are
6 appointed, it's not planned for us to continually do background
7 checks on current members, and so that is not something that is
8 going to be additional work for the staff. It's not planned for
9 us to do that at this point.

10
11 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mr. Donaldson.

12
13 **MR. DONALDSON:** Thank you. To that point, Mr. Chairman, how
14 would we find out that they subsequently had a violation, after
15 being appointed? How do we keep up with that?

16
17 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** So we're not doing the background
18 checks every year, like Mr. Diaz stated, and so only at the time
19 they apply for another ad hoc or advisory panel would you know.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay. Is there any further discussion? Ms.
22 Boggs.

23
24 **MS. BOGGS:** To further that discussion, I mean, fishermen are
25 pretty good tattletales on one another, and so, if we had a
26 member of an AP, and it was brought to our attention that there
27 was a violation, would we have to approve the second, the or, in
28 order to be able to -- I guess the first one would be the
29 council's discretion, and so that might -- I mean, is that
30 something that, if I came to Dale and said, hey, I know Joe
31 Schmo got a violation the other day, and then maybe look at it
32 on kind of a case-by-case basis, I suppose, because I don't want
33 to add any burden to the council staff, if we can avoid it.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Simmons.

36
37 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and so I
38 think what we have proposed on the screen allows the council the
39 most flexibility, and, if you choose to take that individual
40 off, that may be on a current AP or technical committee, once
41 you receive the information that there was a violation, and it
42 was adjudicated, settled, or went into default, then that would
43 allow you the flexibility, at that time, to not appoint them to
44 that AP and/or take them off other APs or technical committees.
45 I think this probably gives you the most flexibility, and we're
46 just putting it in writing that that's the council's process,
47 and so no additional work. Thank you.

48

1 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay. If there is no other discussion, we
2 have a motion and a second, and so we'll go forward and take a
3 vote. **All those in favor of this modification, say aye; is**
4 **there any opposition.** Okay. **This motion carries.** We'll go on
5 to the next point, Dr. Simmons.

6
7 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and so the
8 final section is Section 2.8.3, Administrative Committee
9 Functions, and so, regarding the Gulf SEDAR Committee, we have a
10 suggestion to either add the Sustainable Fisheries Committee
11 chair to that committee or add them and remove the Red Drum
12 chair, as I believe the council discussed at one of our more
13 recent council meetings, or something else that the committee
14 may desire regarding the makeup of the Gulf SEDAR council
15 committee. Thank you.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay. Is there any discussion regarding this
18 matter? Mr. Gill.

19
20 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. You may recall, at our last
21 meeting, we discussed this a little bit, and I raised the point
22 that the Red Drum Committee hardly ever meets, and I can't
23 recall the last time it met, and it's been a while, and it's not
24 likely to meet again, and I would argue that, for the SEDAR
25 Committee, the point of the composition is for the interaction
26 between the SEDAR process and the committee issues that are
27 under the concern of that committee.

28
29 Since the Red Drum Committee never meets, they don't provide any
30 input on that interaction. **Accordingly, I would move that we**
31 **approve the alternative to delete the Red Drum Committee chair**
32 **and substitute the Sustainable Fisheries Committee chair.**

33
34 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Is there any other discussion? General
35 Spraggins.

36
37 **GENERAL JOE SPRAGGINS:** Bob, I understand your points, but red
38 drum is a big thing in Mississippi, and it is a big thing that
39 we think needs to stay on the radar. I realize that it doesn't
40 meet that often, and, when I was the chair of Red Drum, I think
41 the Chair and I -- We talked several times about having
42 meetings, and we did work up some stuff, and we did have some
43 proposals brought, but I think that, one day, down the way, it's
44 probably going to need to have some type of assessment, and I
45 think it's really a big issue there, and I would recommend that
46 we leave Red Drum into it, because it's not going to hurt
47 anything, and it's just that Red Drum is there, and it's not
48 going to hurt a thing, and it will be there. I still agree with

1 adding Sustainable Fisheries to it, but I would like to leave
2 Red Drum.
3
4 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, General Spraggins. Any other
5 questions? If we have no other questions, I would like to have
6 a committee vote on this motion, on Mr. Gill's motion.
7
8 **MS. BOGGS:** I don't know that we got a second, but I don't think
9 that's Bob's motion.
10
11 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** I'm sorry, and I didn't hear.
12
13 **MS. BOGGS:** I was going to clarify that we had a second, but I
14 also don't think that's Bob's motion.
15
16 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay.
17
18 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Susan is right. Bernie,
19 I am looking for the alternative with "or", and so that deletes
20 Red Drum and adds Sustainable, and that was the motion that I
21 made.
22
23 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Is that the second that we have, I believe
24 from Dr. Shipp? No? Do we have a second for this motion?
25
26 **DR. SWEETMAN:** I will second for discussion.
27
28 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay. Is there further discussion on this
29 motion? General Spraggins.
30
31 **GENERAL SPRAGGINS:** I am kind of confused, but I think that the
32 motion that we're talking about is the one that removes Red
33 Drum, and I would like to motion, to make an alternative motion,
34 to say that we accept the first one, with the Red Drum in it,
35 and I would ask for a second on that.
36
37 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** We have a motion and a second, and so I guess
38 we would have to clarify this is an alternative motion. Is
39 there any discussion on this motion? Since there's no further
40 discussion, I guess we have to vote this alternative motion up
41 or down. Could you restate the motion, General Spraggins?
42
43 **GENERAL SPRAGGINS:** Yes. I would like to make a motion that the
44 Gulf SEDAR Committee is comprised of the Council Chair and the
45 Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Red Drum, Sustainable Fisheries, and
46 Reef Fish Management Committee chairs. This committee reviews
47 and advises on SEDAR stock assessment priorities.
48

1 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay. All those in favor of this alternative
2 motion, raise your hand. The motion passes. Okay. Dr.
3 Simmons, do we have any other SOPPs modifications?
4

5 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No more
6 SOPPs modifications at this time. I did want to tell the
7 committee and council that there is, at Headquarters, some
8 policy documents that are being developed regarding harassment,
9 and this is harassment of any council member, advisory panel
10 member, SSC member, and so, once we get that final policy
11 document from them, we'll be taking that and trying to weave it
12 into our SOPPs for the council.
13

14 For staff, we already have quite a bit of our harassment
15 policies in our handbook, and there is some more information
16 that we may be considering for staff as well, regarding
17 harassment policies, but that is to be discussed later, and I
18 just wanted to put it on everybody's radar. Thank you.
19

20 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Dr. Simmons. As the committee
21 chair, I just have one question, Dr. Simmons, of you. If the
22 Gulf SEDAR Committee decides to make some recommendation
23 regarding red drum, for example, are we, as a council, under any
24 obligation to accept that, or do we make our own decision as it
25 applies to red drum?
26

27 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** So it's a committee of the council,
28 and then you would vote on any committee recommendations at Full
29 Council, and you could vote those up or down, and then whatever
30 comes out of that committee -- I would take that information to
31 the SEDAR Steering Committee, with the chair, our leadership
32 chair, and request that various stock assessments be on the
33 stock assessment schedule for the SEDAR process, but it would
34 have to go to Full Council after this committee.
35

36 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** The question I asked is, if the Gulf SEDAR
37 Committee makes a recommendation and passes it on to us, are we
38 as a Gulf Council under any obligation to address that, in an up
39 or down way? My point is, which side you're on with red drum,
40 it's going to be a toxic issue, and there are two sides, and
41 they both have strong opinions, and we don't want to be in a
42 position where we have to take an action based on the SEDAR
43 Committee's recommendation, as opposed to the Gulf Council's
44 vote. I think we want to control our own destiny, in the area
45 of red drum, as a council.
46

47 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Right, and so the Gulf SEDAR
48 Committee is a council committee, just like our Admin/Budget

1 Committee, and so whatever motions that committee makes -- If it
2 passes at Full Council, it will be six members. The council
3 would have to deliberate on those motions and recommendations
4 from that committee, just like any other committee, before it
5 goes to SEDAR, and does that make sense?

6
7 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** That does. It's very clear. Thank you for
8 that clarification. That completes this subject matter. The
9 next agenda item is Other Business. Is there any other business
10 to come before this committee, or should come before this
11 committee? Seeing none, I would entertain a motion -- I guess I
12 don't even have to do that, and I can just -- Can I end the
13 committee on my own? I will do that. That ends our committee
14 agenda, and I will pass it back over to the Chair.

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16 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on August 22, 2022.)

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