GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET COMMITTEE

Hyatt Centric French Quarter  New Orleans, Louisiana

JANUARY 27, 2020

VOTING MEMBERS

Phil Dyskow..............................................Florida
Susan Boggs..............................................Alabama
Dave Donaldson..............................................GSMFC
Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley).........Florida
Lance Robinson (designee for Robin Riechers)...........Texas
Chris Schieble (designee for Patrick Banks)...........Louisiana
Bob Shipp..............................................Alabama
Joe Spraggins..............................................Mississippi
Ed Swindell..............................................Louisiana
Troy Williamson...........................................Texas

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

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Leann Bosarge...........................................Mississippi
Roy Crabtree............................................NMFS
Dale Diaz...............................................Mississippi
Jonathan Dugas..........................................Louisiana
Tom Frazer..............................................Florida
John Sanchez...........................................Florida
Greg Stunz...............................................Texas
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STAFF

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Lisa Hollensead........................................Fishery Biologist
Ava Lasseter............................................Anthropologist
Mara Levy...............................................NOAA General Counsel
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Emily Muehlstein.................................Public Information Officer
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Carrie Simmons..............................Executive Director

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TABLE OF MOTIONS

PAGE 17: Motion to accept the revisions to the administrative handbook as presented. The motion carried on page 17.

PAGE 19: Motion to disband the Red Snapper Private Angler Ad Hoc Advisory Panel. The motion carried on page 20.

PAGE 21: Motion to re-advertise for new members for the CMP and Red Drum Advisory Panels. The motion carried on page 21.

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The Administrative/Budget Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council convened at the Hyatt Centric French Quarter, New Orleans, Louisiana, Monday morning, January 27, 2020, and was called to order by Chairman Phil Dyskow.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**

**CHAIRMAN PHIL DYSKOW:** I would like to call this meeting of the Administrative and Budget Committee to order. The members of this committee are myself, Phil Dyskow, as Chair, General Spraggins as Vice Chair, Chris Schieble, Susan Boggs, Dave Donaldson, Martha Guyas, Lance Robinson, Dr. Bob Shipp, Ed Swindell, and Troy Williamson. The first item on the agenda today is the Approval of the Agenda, and I would entertain a motion for that.

**GENERAL JOE SPARRAGINS:** So moved.

**MR. ED SWINDELL:** Second.

**CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Any opposition? The agenda passes. Next, we want to approve the minutes of the August 2019 meeting. I will entertain a motion.

**MS. MARTHA GUYAS:** So moved.

**UNIDENTIFIED:** Second.

**CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Any opposition to the minutes from the August 2019 meeting? The approval of the minutes passes. Next, we’re going to go on, and we have a number of items to start off 2020, and we’re going to start with the Action Guide and Next Steps from Dr. Simmons.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We’ll go to Tab G, Number 3, and I thought we could just go through the budget and activities and stop there, and then I will come back to the Action Guide.

The first item is we want to update you on the 2015 to 2019 Carryover Request and the Funded Contractual Projects. That’s just for your information and if you have any questions. We’re going to talk about the 2020 activities. In that, we have a list of activities that we will go through, and then we have a short presentation on a proposed visioning strategic plan, and then we have the budget numbers that we’ll go through, and
that’s for your information and feedback. We don’t need to pass a motion regarding this budget, because it’s not final yet, and it’s just for your information and feedback, and so will stop there, and then we’ll pick up the other items after we finish those.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Then we want to next go on to an update on the carryover request? Is correct?

UPDATE ON 2015–2019 CARRYOVER REQUEST AND FUNDED CONTRACTUAL PROJECTS

MS. BETH HAGER: If we could put up Tab G, Number 4. In Tab G, Number 4, we have an update to the table that was presented in October. It shows the expenditures to December of 2018, with $13,692,220. We ended 2019 with expenditures of $4,036,761. This is slightly less than we had originally projected, as we were able to execute and partially fund the contractual work discussed at the last council meeting prior to 12/31. This will leave us $1,224,594 to expend on carryover activities. Based on the current projected schedule, the anticipated unexpended funds will be approximately $3,529 from 2015 to 2019 at the end of 2020.

If you turn to page 2 there, we funded seven research-related contracts, for a total of $503,498. These are listed in Tab G, Number 4, page 2. Under our last update, we expected to have only $316,000 to fund these contracts, but, in the end, we wound up spending less than projected by year-end, and the costs for the website work came to much lower than we originally estimated. This allowed us to distribute $183,799 to these projects prior to 12/31. That is what we have in Tab G, Number 4.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Just as an overall comment, I think, at our last meeting, there was some discussion regarding whether or not the activities were skewed in one direction or another, but, in dealing with the final list of selected projects, truly there’s something in it for everyone, and so I think you’ve done a good job on the selection process. Are there any questions at all on this list? Does anybody want to mention anything?

If not, we will go on to the next topic, which might be the most important, which is the 2020 budget, and Dr. Simmons will kick us off on this.

PROPOSED 2020 ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:  Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  Bernie, could you pull up Tab G, Number 5(a), please?  We will start with that list of proposed activities.  This is the same thing you see every year regarding meetings, and we do have a couple of new things on here that I would like to mention, and a lot of it also is in coordination with our stock assessments and what assessments we think will happen through this year.

The asterisk indicates where we think we can basically charge some of these meetings to our carryover award, and we put that in the request, and it was approved with our Grant Coordinator.

There are five Gulf Council meetings, four South Atlantic Council meetings, with one council member liaison, two Council Coordinating Committee meetings, and those are going to be in May and September, and we anticipate having several SSC meetings, and we had the January SSC meeting, and we will convene the Special Reef Fish SSCs and the Special Coral and Ecosystem, Mackerel, Shrimp, and Socioeconomic, as well as this year there is a National SSC Meeting, and that allows us the flexibility if we want to send more than three SSC members, and we have that ability to send additional staff and SSC members if they want to attend that national meeting.  Whoever is hosting pays for a couple of members to go, but, if we want to send additional folks, that was in the budget.

Advisory panel meetings, we’re going to talk about some of the advisory panels later, the ad hoc and the Mackerel and the Red Drum, but we have scheduled -- You can see a list of those advisory panels and the International Commission for the Conservation of Tunas.  For the technical committees, we are expecting two Ecosystem Committees, one Education and Outreach and two Law Enforcement Committees, and then we’ve also budgeted for some working groups.

We need to get going on our ABC control rule, and that’s going to be a makeup of SSC members, staff, and I think some folks from the Science Center, and then we’re looking at at least one council member, if not two, that may be involved in that, and so we need to get going on that as well.

If we go into SEDAR, we’re anticipating several stock assessments, and you can see the list here of when we think we’re going to get those and then what SSC meeting those would be deliberated, and then we also have the SEDAR Steering Committee meeting, and that was one in-person meeting in May and then a webinar in September.
For public hearings, this is always difficult to anticipate, just generally, for activities that might occur. With all the changes with the MRIP FES, we have budgeted for quite a few public hearings, and we anticipate a lot of meetings needed to explain to the public how the council is going to be changing, potentially, how these impacts are going to change allocation and catch levels, and so we did schedule quite a few public hearings for 2020. Whether or not these will all occur is still unknown.

Then something else that you might not have seen in a couple of years, if you’ve been involved with the council, is we’re doing some outreach efforts, and this was all in our last five-year award, but we didn’t complete it, and so we’re able to charge these activities to that carryover money, but we are going to reassess doing some events and festivals, and Emily and other staff are going to go to some fishing clubs and talk, and we’re going to try this this year and then reassess and come back to the council and see what they think about those efforts, and so that’s that list there, and we’ve budgeted for two staff members and one council member to attend those events.

We have also budgeted for a council visioning process or strategic plan exercise, and we have a short presentation to start the kickoff with that, to see if you’re interested in something like that, and then, at the next meeting, we would bring back more information, if you would like to see something like that moving forward, and I think Emily is going to give you that presentation, but I will see if anybody has any questions first, maybe, on these activities.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: If there are no questions, we can have Emily’s presentation now.

MS. EMILY MUEHLSTEIN: Okay. Thank you. As Carrie mentioned, this presentation is really sort of meant to let you guys consider whether or not you want to consider some sort of visioning or strategic planning exercise with the council.

We had a couple of calls with Michelle Duval, and she’s a past council member for the South Atlantic Council, and she now runs a consulting firm, and she has been engaging with some of the other councils in the U.S., with their visioning and strategic planning efforts, and so we spoke with her, and then I also spoke with some of the staff members from the councils that went through these exercises and just got a little bit more information to give you.
I’m sure most of you are familiar with a strategic plan. Really, what it does is it points an organization towards a clearly-stated set of goals, and it answers the questions of where we are going, starting with where we are now, and then really sort of the meat of the exercise is how do we get there, and then we also set some parameters, or some benchmarks, as to how we know if we have succeeded in fulfilling our strategic planning goals.

I spoke with some of the staff members from the other councils, and I sort of asked them what the utility of having a strategic plan had been for their councils, and they said that it established priorities and a future direction for their council, and it helped them effectively allocate their time and their resources, which was interesting. When the council was sort of planning or considering certain actions, they could run it past that strategic plan and determine whether or not it was a proper use of time, based on their sort of end goal that they had set.

It also helps plan for uncertainty, environmental uncertainty, or any sort of change that is unanticipated, and it’s also a good decision support tool for the council, and so what should we be spending our time and our efforts on, and, also, it’s a good way to sort of let stakeholders know where we’re headed and then sort of align all of our actions and our goals towards that strategic plan.

What could this look like? The process is pretty simple. The first thing that the council would maybe consider doing is sort of defining their vision, and the next is we would participate in a strategic planning workshop and develop the plan itself, and then we would review that plan and publish it.

This is all sort of -- It can be expanded or contracted to how big or little we want to make this process, meaning sort of the smallest way that we could look at this is if we did it entirely internally, if we made it a council-only initiative and really kept it sort of just within the council’s purview.

We could expand it a little bit, so that we could include sort of our internal stakeholders, and so it would be the council itself, and then things like our SSCs and our AP members, if we wanted to get a little bit bigger, and then we could also broaden it to the entire public, and so it would include our internal audiences, the council itself, and then we could also include the general public in our visioning as well as our strategic planning, if that is what we wanted to do.
Just as a reference point for what the other councils have done, the Mid-Atlantic is the first council that I know of, sort of in our area, that has done strategic planning at all, and they did that exercise and made up a strategic plan for 2014 to 2018, and they had a very extensive open public visioning process here, and they actually used that process a little bit to engage their public, because they saw that they needed to sort of do that a little bit more at that time. Then they created a strategic planning out of that public visioning.

Next, just recently, they have completed a visioning and strategic plan for 2020 to 2024, and this was a smaller process, and it really just included their internal audiences, their SSCs and things like that.

The South Atlantic just went through an extensive public visioning process and strategic planning, and they called it a blueprint, and they sort of changed the language here, but it’s just a strategic plan, but they did it specifically for their snapper grouper process. My understanding is this was almost a two-year exercise, and it took up a greater portion of the first morning of every council meeting for a while.

Then, finally, the Caribbean Council is just in their very, very beginning of a public visioning process, and I think they’re just starting to get the ball rolling there, and so, with that, I can take any questions that you guys might have, but I just wanted to sort of lay out the options that you have if you are interested in this kind of thing.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Emily, I have a question. Is council staff prepared for this, and do they fully understand the scope and the scope of work that would be involved in a successful strategic planning process?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: We just want to get some feedback on if you want us to look at this in more depth. If you don’t, then we’re fine. If you do, then we would bring more information to that, regarding this, to you.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Mr. Donaldson.

MR. DAVE DONALDSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think strategic planning has some utility, if it’s done correctly. I don’t -- I have been through a lot of strategic planning processes, and, if we’re just doing it to kind of check a box -- I think one of the issues that Emily identified is how do we know that we were successful, and I think that’s a key to that. If we do it, we
need to have some metrics that say, okay, we have accomplished —
- We have identified five things, and we accomplished three out
of five, or whatever.

I think there’s some utility, like I said, if we do it, and we
do it correctly, and I think that it would be -- It potentially
could be useful. Through GulfFIN, we do a strategic planning
exercise every five years, and it helps us map out what we want
to focus on in the next five years, and so I personally think
that it would be useful to get maybe a little more information
and see where it goes.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Ms. Guyas.

MS. MARTHA GUYAS: I will jump in, if you don’t mind, and so a
couple of thoughts. As far as the South Atlantic process, I
kind of got to see a little bit of that, and it was very
expensive, I think, and very extensive, and I don’t know that a
lot of those things really got to the finish line, and Chester
can probably weigh-in on that, but I think a lot of the
amendments that were formed during that process ultimately were
abandoned, or just a couple of pieces ended up making to the
finish line, and so I would, if we go down this road, suggest
scaling this down pretty significantly.

Another thing that I kind of have some hesitancy about is maybe
the timing of it right now. We’ve got some pretty big issues in
front of us, with allocation and FES issues, and I feel like, if
we’re really going to be productive with this, we probably need
to hammer those our first.

One thing I think maybe that we maybe could do though -- Going
back to allocation, one of the things that we’re supposed to be
working on is reviewing like the goals and objectives of the
FMPs, and we’ve done that for reef fish, but we haven’t done
that for other fisheries, and so it seems like that there could
be an opportunity do that, or link that in the visioning, if
we’re going to go down that road, and that’s just my thoughts.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Chester.

MR. CHESTER BREWER: Martha is quite correct that it was very
expensive, and it was incredibly time-consuming. We actually
had special meetings in Charleston to discuss the visioning
project. At the end of the day, Martha is correct again, that
there was very, very little in that process that was actually
brought to fruition, and, in fact, the main thing that we were
trying to do in that process, at the end, was devise a system
whereby we were managing shallow-water groupers as a group and
deepwater groupers as a group, because we’ve got, obviously,
some significant problems, from the standpoint of deepwater
grouper.

I think it was at the last meeting, or the meeting before, that
we moved to the considered but not adopted, or whatever it is we
call it when we put something on the table, and, by putting on
the table, I mean kill it, almost all of the different proposals
that came out of the visioning process.

I would also caution that this is something you don’t want to
let get out of hand and let it get too big, because, if you do,
now you’re getting into a situation where you’ve got a process
that takes years and, during that time period, the priorities,
the issues and things, may well change, and they did for us, and
so we ended up not getting much utility out of it at all.

Now, one thing that we have started doing, that I have seen some
real benefit to, is, towards the end of every meeting, and you
all may do this, and I don’t know, but, towards the end of every
meeting, we have essentially a survey that goes out to all the
council members, and we take all of the different fishery
management plans, all the different issues that we’re dealing
with, and we rank them.

At the very end of the meeting, those rankings come back, on
essentially a nicely-colored spreadsheet, and we discuss them,
and say there’s something that you really think should be the
number-one, two, three priority, or not.

Another really nice part of that is, for each say FMP, the piece
of work that we’re doing there, it will show how many council
meetings, or how long it’s anticipated that that work will take,
and so we’re able to fit those together to get I think maybe the
best efficiency that we can and also being able to bring forward
those issues that we think are most appropriate. In closing, I
would just say don’t do what we did. Absolutely don’t do what
we did.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: I guess I am asking myself a question, but,
from what I have heard, just like Dave, I have gone through a
lot of these processes, and they are complicated, and they’re
expensive, and, when they’re done, we don’t know why we did
them, and we don’t really have a clear direction going forward.

A good starting point, where we can test the waters, would be a
survey of not just council members, but stakeholders and
stakeholder groups, to see if what we’re doing is consistent with what their goals and expectations are. Now, that may take us nowhere, but, if we get a situation where 80 percent of the respondents say we’re doing a terrible job and we’re not addressing the key issues, that tells us something.

If people think we are addressing the key issues, that tells us something else again, and so, rather than spending lots of money and time and effort, perhaps we can start with something like an electronic survey, and I think it’s really important to get feedback from stakeholders and stakeholder groups of is what we’re doing making sense to them, are the actions that we’re taking making sense to them, or are we not meeting the expectations of these folks? Any other input? Dr. Frazer.

**DR. TOM FRAZER:** Just a question actually for Chester, I think. I realize that it was an expensive and an extensive process, and you may not have gotten to where you wanted to go, but there is -- It involves the public and all the stakeholder groups, and there’s a cost of not going through that process, even if you end up nowhere, as you said, but Phil’s point is a very good one.

I think, if you have some type of engagement with your stakeholder groups, to let you know if you’re on the right track or not, that can guide the process moving forward, and so I would not just dismiss it out of hand because it’s expensive and extensive and a complicated process.

**CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mr. Brewer.

**MR. BREWER:** Thank you. Dr. Frazer, I think you’re exactly correct. Now, we did have hearings and workshops throughout the process for public input, but we still got to the same place, where it evolved into something that got so complicated that we really couldn’t deal with it.

I don’t think there’s any reason on this earth that you couldn’t have an electronic survey of stakeholders, or even face-to-face, with regard to like, as Phil said, what kind of job are we doing here, and do you feel like we’re putting too much emphasis on red snapper, as opposed to taking more of a look at whatever, red drum, and just get the general feedback of what the public thinks is important and whether the council is paying enough attention to those issues that the public thinks is important, and that’s going to be a tenth of the cost of what we went through, and I think you would get a lot more bang for your buck doing it that way.
CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Any other discussion on this topic, or are we ready to move on? Mr. Swindell.

MR. SWINDELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am back here at the first slide that she had, and it says, where are we going, where are we currently, how do we get there, how do we know if we succeeded? You know, this council has been together for God knows how many years now, thirty years or more, and you kind of started this thing at the beginning, and I just don’t know if -- It’s always great to have a strategic plan, but I don’t know that we’re off-track. Do we feel like we’re off-track at all, on the way that we do things?

I have not gotten any feedback from anybody saying, hey, you’re being totally stupid, and we always have issues that we consider of whether or not we’re doing things right or not, but I don’t know that having a strategic plan is going to help us any. I think there is a lot of money involved in it to get it done, and who is going to do all of this? Would staff be doing it, just staff, and, if not, if you have to involve council members, it gets more costs involved, and does the staff really have time to do all of this stuff, as Mr. Brewer pointed out?

I just don’t know, and I have a gut feeling that we’re barking up a tree that it’s not going to get us much for the money that it takes, and there is, to me, a lot more things that we need to be spending money on with fishery resource knowledge than doing this to help us, and I think we’re functioning okay. Are we functioning great? Probably not, necessarily, but I think we’re doing the best job we can do. Just having a plan is not going to change much, I’m afraid, and so that’s all I have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Dr. Simmons.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: Thank you, guys, for entertaining this notion, and it was just, from a staff perspective, a tool that we were thinking the council could use for long-term planning as to what they would like to see the fisheries look like.

I think we can do the two things I think that were suggested. Regarding a survey, I think we would have to think more about that and talk to Mara about that, because we are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, and so we can’t just do the survey. I think we can work with a contractor or something like that to do a survey, but I would need to get with Ms. Levy about how we
could go about doing something like that.

Regarding the FMP objectives, I think that’s certainly something we have on our list of things, and we could bring it up at the appropriate amendments for each fishery FMP, and so I think that’s a good suggestion, and so we’ll put that in the report and move forward that way, if that’s okay, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Thank you, Dr. Simmons. Dr. Simmons, do you have any other materials you wish to present on the 2020 budget?

I believe you do. Ms. Hager.

MS. BETH HAGER: If we could bring up Tab G, Number 5(c). Here, we are presenting the 2019 funded budget, and it’s set alongside the 2020 proposed budget. As instructed by NOAA, we have budgeted 2020 funding to be level with 2019. The figures are presented in thousands, and they are categorized as we report them to NOAA.

I am just going to go through some highlights of the differences between the two years. Starting with personnel costs, they have been adjusted to reflect a 2.85 percent COLA that we received on January 1 of this year. In the category of part-time temporary position, it’s funding for an intern to assist technical staff with biological and habitat work on amendments.

Our health insurance increased slightly. However, the new dental and life insurance plans will have fixed rates for the next two years, as a result of our plan change, and Tab G, Number 6 details the specific changes of the life insurance plan, when we get to that point.

Travel costs are based on the activity plan, as presented by Dr. Simmons. These activities may be adjusted as work unfolds by the time the final budget is presented. The 2019 equipment costs were for the van replacement, and the 2020 equipment is for a server update. Supplies are budgeted to be lower than 2019, as the workstations and council equipment have just been updated, but we do plan to update the phone system, as the manufacturer is no longer in business for the phone system that we currently have.

Contractual costs include $80,000 set-aside for the visioning or strategic planning project, which can be reallocated when we present the final budget, if necessary. Rent costs increased slightly, as per our lease agreement, and other costs down below are increasing nominally.
We do plan to bring a funded budget request before the council later in the year. As of right now, we have received $1,723,128 of our 2020 funding, and that’s about 44 percent if we receive funding that is level to the 2019 numbers. Does anybody have any questions about the budget that we have presented here, or the proposed budget?

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Mr. Swindell.

MR. SWINDELL: You have zero in the account for the annual leave account. Is this realistic?

MS. HAGER: Yes, sir. We actually funded that fully at the end of 2019, and so we don’t anticipate a drastic change by the end of 2020. Staff are generally using their leave as it’s accruing, within reason, and so I don’t expect us to have a difference of a very large liability at the end of 2020. We also historically fund those accounts at the end of the award, if we have funds available.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: I might also add that, in December of 2019, Ms. Hager, Dr. Simmons, and myself went through this line-by-line, in a reasonable amount of detail, and I asked a lot of questions of that type, and I am satisfied that they have thoroughly gone through all the what-ifs. However, if anyone else has any questions, now would be a great time to bring them up. Very well. If there are no other questions, we’ll go on to the next item, which is also going to be addressed by Ms. Hager, which is the administrative handbook.

UPDATES TO ADMINISTRATIVE HANDBOOK

MS. HAGER: In Tab G, Number 6, this shows a redline version, and now what we’ve done is just provided excerpts for you, because we’re not looking at every single piece of the administrative handbook. These will just be a few updates.

The first item reflects the simplified and updated language to the life insurance policy. Generally, we shop benefits each year prior to the renewal, and our rates come out thirty to sixty days prior to the renewal, and our broker was able to locate a policy for us that offers the same long-term disability and a flat benefit of $150,000 of life insurance coverage for all staff, and that’s a 20 percent savings over the prior plan.

This will be combined with the dental and vision plan, which will give us an equal benefit to what we had last year, at a savings of 4 percent on those, and so this just cleans up the
language and makes it consistent.

Additionally, the premiums for all policies will be for two years, and I think I mentioned that. We have had experience with this vendor, and we feel that it was outstanding opportunity to offer richer benefits at a significant cost savings to the council.

Item 2 here is an update to the location of the training required for our telework policy. Item 3 more accurately reflects the terms of our grant award relating to foreign travel, and the last item is just a housekeeping update for staff names.

We may bring back handbook changes later in the year for additional changes, as we may need to revise the FMLA area to incorporate the guidance on the new federal parental leave mandate, and so we’ll have to see how that shakes out as the year progresses.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Thank you, Beth. Does anyone have any questions about these updates to the handbook? If not, we will move on to the next item, which is a review of the ad hoc advisory panels. Do you have anything further to add to this, Dr. Simmons? I know we talked about them earlier.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: On the previous item or this item?

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: The ad hoc advisory panels, the next item on the list. Is there anything further that you would like to add on this?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: Yes, and I will walk the committee through it. I think, Dave, you had your hand up, though.

MR. DONALDSON: Do we need a motion to accept those changes to the admin policy or not?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: It would be nice.

MR. DONALDSON: I so move then.

MS. GUYAS: Second.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: We have a motion and a second. Is there any discussion on the motion to accept the changes to the handbook, as stated? If not, is anybody opposed to the motion? The
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Tab G, Number 7(a). In 2015, the council passed a motion that you would evaluate your ad hoc advisory panels at the beginning of every year, to deem if the panel has completed their assignments and they can be disbanded or if there’s more work for them to do or if the charges would need to be amended for those panels.

The two ad hoc advisory panels the council currently has are the Red Snapper Private Angler AP and the Red Snapper/Grouper-Tilefish IFQ AP, and we have when they were appointed on there, their charge, the number of meetings that have been held, and, if you go down a little bit, I think those are active links to the summaries. The IFQ AP was more recently repopulated, and they haven’t been convened. Last year, they weren’t convened, but they were prior to that, and you can see they were convened twice in 2018.

The biggest question I have regarding these two ad hoc APs are, for the Red Snapper Private Angler AP, I think, if we are to keep this advisory panel, we would need to think about their charge and what their task would be for the council moving forward, and so I would like to get some feedback on that, if I can, by at least Full Council.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Ms. Guyas.

MS. GUYAS: As far as the Red Snapper Private Angler AP goes, I think we can probably disband it. That is now being handled by the states, and so I think the council has done what they’re going to do there. I can make a motion to that effect, if you would like.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Before you do that, Martha, I was just -- Just as you started to speak, I was going to ask the same question. How do the rest of the states feel about this?

MR. LANCE ROBINSON: At least from our perspective in Texas, I would support Martha’s contention, and I’m not sure that there’s a lot of value going forward, now that the states are involved with that.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: General Spraggins.
GENERAL SPRAGGINS: Mississippi is the same way. We would support what Martha is talking about, and I think it’s good.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Kevin.

MR. KEVIN ANSON: We would, too. As I recall, and I don’t know if you want to call it getting out of the weeds, but they certainly wanted a lot more information about how the recreational estimates were derived, and they kind of were getting -- They really wanted to delve into a lot of the issues, I think, that we didn’t have any intention for them to do, and so I would agree that it’s probably better for us to just not have any more meetings. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: I would agree, but how do the other council members that are in a recreational seat feel about this? Are you comfortable with it? Chris.

MR. CHRIS SCHIEBLE: I concur as well, and I think the EFP seasons that we had for the last two years are good examples as to how effectively it was managed, and so I don’t have an issue with it.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Ms. Boggs.

MS. SUSAN BOGGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to see the reports that the states are going to be presenting on how it’s working before I make a decision. One of the questions that I do have, and I understand that the data collection is in place, but I don’t know that I understand how the states are dealing with discards.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Does anybody else have any comments on this? Ms. Guyas, would you like to present a motion?

MS. GUYAS: I will go ahead and make a motion to disband the Red Snapper Private Angler Ad Hoc Advisory Panel.

GENERAL SPRAGGINS: I will second.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: We have a motion and a second, and the motion was by Martha Guyas, and the second was by General Spraggins. Do we have any discussion on this motion?

MR. SWINDELL: What’s going to happen then when we want to have some review by the advisory panel? Do we have to go through the whole lengthy process of meeting and establishing another panel
to get it ready to have a group available? I am afraid that it’s just going to add more time, and why not just keep the panel the way it is?

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Ms. Guyas.

MS. GUYAS: This is an ad hoc panel with a very specific charge, and I think they’ve met their charge, and so, if we have other questions for private anglers regarding red snapper, it seems to me that we would want to come up with a question and then form a committee based on that question.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Mr. Brewer.

MR. BREWER: Carrie, I don’t know if this is a good time to bring this up, and we can bring it up later, if appropriate, but we do have the letter that came over from the South Atlantic Council regarding a joint recreational working group, ad hoc panel, whatever you want to call it, that we -- I know we were planning on discussing it later, but, with some of the questions that are coming up now with regard to this AP, maybe we could at least throw out the information about what’s coming later.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Are there any other questions on this motion? If not, is there any opposition to this motion? If not, the motion passes. Any other questions on the ad hoc committees?

Dr. Simmons, did you have anything else to mention?

REVIEW OF COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS AND RED DRUM APs

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If not on the ad hoc panels, I would like to discuss the two advisory panels that their term is up, and that is in Tab G, Number 7(b). That’s the Coastal Migratory Pelagics AP and the Red Drum AP.

We have I believe it’s three-year terms, a term cycle that was set, and the Red Drum AP hasn’t been convened since its formation in June of 2017. The Coastal Migratory Pelagics AP was convened once, and that was only by webinar, in 2018. However, we anticipate that the Coastal Migratory Pelagics AP will be very active in 2020, because we anticipate receiving both the king mackerel and the cobia stock assessment updates this year, and so that’s why we budgeted for two Coastal Migratory Pelagics meetings in 2020.

We currently are not anticipating convening the Red Drum AP, but what we’re asking is do you want to keep the current membership of these advisory panels, or would you like us to re-advertise
and look at new applicants in April and then finalize those applications in June, after background checks? If you wanted to do that, either way, please let us know via a motion.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Somebody had their hand up. Was that you, Ms. Boggs?

MS. BOGGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t have an issue keeping these APs, but I would like to see us repopulate them, as some people may not be in the fishery anymore, and so do you want me to make a motion? I would like to make a motion to reappoint the Coastal Migratory Pelagics AP and Red Drum AP after advertising for new applicants. I don’t know how you want me to word that.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Dr. Simmons.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: We are not asking I guess to disband these, necessarily. I mean, that’s certainly in the council’s prerogative, but we were just asking if you wanted to reappoint the current members or re-advertise.

MS. BOGGS: I said reappoint.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: You wanted to reappoint the current members?

MS. BOGGS: Yes, and I though that’s what I said.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: I’m sorry. Yes.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Do we have a second for this motion?

MS. BOGGS: Well, no, I don’t want to reappoint the current -- That’s what I was asking. I need help forming the motion. I mean, we need to keep the APs, but I think we need to repopulate, and so to re-advertise. Go for it, Bernie.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: Re-advertise for new members, correct?

MS. BOGGS: Correct.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Is there a second for this motion? Ms. Guyas seconds the motion. Is there any discussion on this motion? Is anybody opposed to this motion? If not, the motion carries. Dr. Simmons.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have nothing else.

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: Thank you. We’re down to the last item on this agenda, and we’re on schedule, or actually ahead of schedule, which is a good thing, and is there any other business that we want to discuss on the Administrative and Budget Committee? Ms. Boggs.

MS. BOGGS: Did we discuss the Ad Hoc Red Snapper/Grouper-Tilefish IFQ?

CHAIRMAN DYSKOW: We did not discuss it, but it’s my understanding that there wasn’t the intent to take any action on it, whereas we discussed the recreational red snapper group because it was decided to disband it. Any other questions about anything before this committee or new business? If not, Mr. Chairman, this concludes our report.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on January 27, 2020.)