

1 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2
3 ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET COMMITTEE

4
5 Hyatt Centric French Quarter New Orleans, Louisiana

6
7 JANUARY 27, 2020

8
9 **VOTING MEMBERS**

- 10 Phil Dyskow.....Florida
- 11 Susan Boggs.....Alabama
- 12 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- 13 Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
- 14 Lance Robinson (designee for Robin Riechers).....Texas
- 15 Chris Schieble (designee for Patrick Banks).....Louisiana
- 16 Bob Shipp.....Alabama
- 17 Joe Spraggins.....Mississippi
- 18 Ed Swindell.....Louisiana
- 19 Troy Williamson.....Texas

20
21 **NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

- 22 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
- 23 Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- 24 Roy Crabtree.....NMFS
- 25 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- 26 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana
- 27 Tom Frazer.....Florida
- 28 John Sanchez.....Florida
- 29 Greg Stunz.....Texas
- 30 Lt. Mark Zanowicz.....USCG

31
32 **STAFF**

- 33 Matt Freeman.....Economist
- 34 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director
- 35 Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer
- 36 Lisa Hollensead.....Fishery Biologist
- 37 Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
- 38 Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
- 39 Natasha Mendez-Ferrer.....Fishery Biologist
- 40 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer
- 41 Ryan Rindone.....Fishery Biologist & SEDAR Liaison
- 42 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- 43 Camilla Shireman.....Administrative & Communications Assistant
- 44 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director

45
46 **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

- 47 Eric Brazer.....Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance
- 48 Chester Brewer.....SAFMC

1 Kenneth Daniels, Jr.....SOFA, FL
2 Susan Gerhart.....NMFS
3 Raleigh Hoke.....New Orleans, LA
4 Bill Kelly.....FKCFA, FL
5 Lawrence Marino.....LA
6 Ted Mask.....SFA
7 Jack McGovern.....NMFS
8 Carole Neidig.....Mote Marine Lab
9 Laurie Stevens.....SFA
10 Bob Zales, II.....Panama City, FL
11 Yuying Zhang.....Miami, FL
12 Jim Zurbrick.....Steinhatchee, FL

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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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1 The Administrative/Budget Committee of the Gulf of Mexico
2 Fishery Management Council convened at the Hyatt Centric French
3 Quarter, New Orleans, Louisiana, Monday morning, January 27,
4 2020, and was 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 this meeting of the
11 Administrative and Budget Committee to order. The members of
12 this committee are myself, Phil Dyskow, as Chair, General
13 Spraggins as Vice Chair, Chris Schieble, Susan Boggs, Dave
14 Donaldson, Martha Guyas, Lance Robinson, Dr. Bob Shipp, Ed
15 Swindell, and Troy Williamson. The first item on the agenda
16 today is the Approval of the Agenda, and I would entertain a
17 motion for that.

18
19 **GENERAL JOE SPRAGGINS:** So moved.

20
21 **MR. ED SWINDELL:** Second.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Any opposition? The agenda passes. Next, we
24 want to approve the minutes of the August 2019 meeting. I will
25 entertain a motion.

26
27 **MS. MARTHA GUYAS:** So moved.

28
29 **UNIDENTIFIED:** Second.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Any opposition to the minutes from the August
32 2019 meeting? The approval of the minutes passes. Next, we're
33 going to go on, and we have a number of items to start off 2020,
34 and we're going to start with the Action Guide and Next Steps
35 from Dr. Simmons.

36
37 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** Good morning. Thank you,
38 Mr. Chairman. We'll go to Tab G, Number 3, and I thought we
39 could just go through the budget and activities and stop there,
40 and then I will come back to the Action Guide.

41
42 The first item is we want to update you on the 2015 to 2019
43 Carryover Request and the Funded Contractual Projects. That's
44 just for your information and if you have any questions. We're
45 going to talk about the 2020 activities. In that, we have a
46 list of activities that we will go through, and then we have a
47 short presentation on a proposed visioning strategic plan, and
48 then we have the budget numbers that we'll go through, and

1 that's for your information and feedback. We don't need to pass
2 a motion regarding this budget, because it's not final yet, and
3 it's just for your information and feedback, and so will stop
4 there, and then we'll pick up the other items after we finish
5 those.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Then we want to next go on to an update on the
8 carryover request? Is correct?

9
10 **UPDATE ON 2015-2019 CARRYOVER REQUEST AND FUNDED CONTRACTUAL**
11 **PROJECTS**

12
13 **MS. BETH HAGER:** If we could put up Tab G, Number 4. In Tab G,
14 Number 4, we have an update to the table that was presented in
15 October. It shows the expenditures to December of 2018, with
16 \$13,692,220. We ended 2019 with expenditures of \$4,036,761.
17 This is slightly less than we had originally projected, as we
18 were able to execute and partially fund the contractual work
19 discussed at the last council meeting prior to 12/31. This will
20 leave us \$1,224,594 to expend on carryover activities. Based on
21 the current projected schedule, the anticipated unexpended funds
22 will be approximately \$3,529 from 2015 to 2019 at the end of
23 2020.

24
25 If you turn to page 2 there, we funded seven research-related
26 contracts, for a total of \$503,498. These are listed in Tab G,
27 Number 4, page 2. Under our last update, we expected to have
28 only \$316,000 to fund these contracts, but, in the end, we wound
29 up spending less than projected by year-end, and the costs for
30 the website work came to much lower than we originally
31 estimated. This allowed us to distribute \$183,799 to these
32 projects prior to 12/31. That is what we have in Tab G, Number
33 4.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Just as an overall comment, I think, at our
36 last meeting, there was some discussion regarding whether or not
37 the activities were skewed in one direction or another, but, in
38 dealing with the final list of selected projects, truly there's
39 something in it for everyone, and so I think you've done a good
40 job on the selection process. Are there any questions at all on
41 this list? Does anybody want to mention anything?

42
43 If not, we will go on to the next topic, which might be the most
44 important, which is the 2020 budget, and Dr. Simmons will kick
45 us off on this.

46
47 **PROPOSED 2020 ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET**

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

8
9 The asterisk indicates where we think we can basically charge
10 some of these meetings to our carryover award, and we put that
11 in the request, and it was approved with our Grant Coordinator.

12
13 There are five Gulf Council meetings, four South Atlantic
14 Council meetings, with one council member liaison, two Council
15 Coordinating Committee meetings, and those are going to be in
16 May and September, and we anticipate having several SSC
17 meetings, and we had the January SSC meeting, and we will
18 convene the Special Reef Fish SSCs and the Special Coral and
19 Ecosystem, Mackerel, Shrimp, and Socioeconomic, as well as this
20 year there is a National SSC Meeting, and that allows us the
21 flexibility if we want to send more than three SSC members, and
22 we have that ability to send additional staff and SSC members if
23 they want to attend that national meeting. Whoever is hosting
24 pays for a couple of members to go, but, if we want to send
25 additional folks, that was in the budget.

26
27 Advisory panel meetings, we're going to talk about some of the
28 advisory panels later, the ad hoc and the Mackerel and the Red
29 Drum, but we have scheduled -- You can see a list of those
30 advisory panels and the International Commission for the
31 Conservation of Tunas. For the technical committees, we are
32 expecting two Ecosystem Committees, one Education and Outreach
33 and two Law Enforcement Committees, and then we've also budgeted
34 for some working groups.

35
36 We need to get going on our ABC control rule, and that's going
37 to be a makeup of SSC members, staff, and I think some folks
38 from the Science Center, and then we're looking at at least one
39 council member, if not two, that may be involved in that, and so
40 we need to get going on that as well.

41
42 If we go into SEDAR, we're anticipating several stock
43 assessments, and you can see the list here of when we think
44 we're going to get those and then what SSC meeting those would
45 be deliberated, and then we also have the SEDAR Steering
46 Committee meeting, and that was one in-person meeting in May and
47 then a webinar in September.

1 For public hearings, this is always difficult to anticipate,
2 just generally, for activities that might occur. With all the
3 changes with the MRIP FES, we have budgeted for quite a few
4 public hearings, and we anticipate a lot of meetings needed to
5 explain to the public how the council is going to be changing,
6 potentially, how these impacts are going to change allocation
7 and catch levels, and so we did schedule quite a few public
8 hearings for 2020. Whether or not these will all occur is still
9 unknown.

10
11 Then something else that you might not have seen in a couple of
12 years, if you've been involved with the council, is we're doing
13 some outreach efforts, and this was all in our last five-year
14 award, but we didn't complete it, and so we're able to charge
15 these activities to that carryover money, but we are going to
16 reassess doing some events and festivals, and Emily and other
17 staff are going to go to some fishing clubs and talk, and we're
18 going to try this this year and then reassess and come back to
19 the council and see what they think about those efforts, and so
20 that's that list there, and we've budgeted for two staff members
21 and one council member to attend those events.

22
23 We have also budgeted for a council visioning process or
24 strategic plan exercise, and we have a short presentation to
25 start the kickoff with that, to see if you're interested in
26 something like that, and then, at the next meeting, we would
27 bring back more information, if you would like to see something
28 like that moving forward, and I think Emily is going to give you
29 that presentation, but I will see if anybody has any questions
30 first, maybe, on these activities.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** If there are no questions, we can have Emily's
33 presentation now.

34
35 **MS. EMILY MUEHLSTEIN:** Okay. Thank you. As Carrie mentioned,
36 this presentation is really sort of meant to let you guys
37 consider whether or not you want to consider some sort of
38 visioning or strategic planning exercise with the council.

39
40 We had a couple of calls with Michelle Duval, and she's a past
41 council member for the South Atlantic Council, and she now runs
42 a consulting firm, and she has been engaging with some of the
43 other councils in the U.S., with their visioning and strategic
44 planning efforts, and so we spoke with her, and then I also
45 spoke with some of the staff members from the councils that went
46 through these exercises and just got a little bit more
47 information to give you.

48

1 I'm sure most of you are familiar with a strategic plan.
2 Really, what it does is it points an organization towards a
3 clearly-stated set of goals, and it answers the questions of
4 where are we going, starting with where are we now, and then
5 really sort of the meat of the exercise is how do we get there,
6 and then we also set some parameters, or some benchmarks, as to
7 how we know if we have succeeded in fulfilling our strategic
8 planning goals.

9
10 I spoke with some of the staff members from the other councils,
11 and I sort of asked them what the utility of having a strategic
12 plan had been for their councils, and they said that it
13 established priorities and a future direction for their council,
14 and it helped them effectively allocate their time and their
15 resources, which was interesting. When the council was sort of
16 planning or considering certain actions, they could run it past
17 that strategic plan and determine whether or not it was a proper
18 use of time, based on their sort of end goal that they had set.

19
20 It also helps plan for uncertainty, environmental uncertainty,
21 or any sort of change that is unanticipated, and it's also a
22 good decision support tool for the council, and so what should
23 we be spending our time and our efforts on, and, also, it's a
24 good way to sort of let stakeholders know where we're headed and
25 then sort of align all of our actions and our goals towards that
26 strategic plan.

27
28 What could this look like? The process is pretty simple. The
29 first thing that the council would maybe consider doing is sort
30 of defining their vision, and the next is we would participate
31 in a strategic planning workshop and develop the plan itself,
32 and then we would review that plan and publish it.

33
34 This is all sort of -- It can be expanded or contracted to how
35 big or little we want to make this process, meaning sort of the
36 smallest way that we could look at this is if we did it entirely
37 internally, if we made it a council-only initiative and really
38 kept it sort of just within the council's purview.

39
40 We could expand it a little bit, so that we could include sort
41 of our internal stakeholders, and so it would be the council
42 itself, and then things like our SSCs and our AP members, if we
43 wanted to get a little bit bigger, and then we could also
44 broaden it to the entire public, and so it would include our
45 internal audiences, the council itself, and then we could also
46 include the general public in our visioning as well as our
47 strategic planning, if that is what we wanted to do.

48

1 Just as a reference point for what the other councils have done,
2 the Mid-Atlantic is the first council that I know of, sort of in
3 our area, that has done strategic planning at all, and they did
4 that exercise and made up a strategic plan for 2014 to 2018, and
5 they had a very extensive open public visioning process here,
6 and they actually used that process a little bit to engage their
7 public, because they saw that they needed to sort of do that a
8 little bit more at that time. Then they created a strategic
9 planning out of that public visioning.

10
11 Next, just recently, they have completed a visioning and
12 strategic plan for 2020 to 2024, and this was a smaller process,
13 and it really just included their internal audiences, their SSCs
14 and things like that.

15
16 The South Atlantic just went through an extensive public
17 visioning process and strategic planning, and they called it a
18 blueprint, and they sort of changed the language here, but it's
19 just a strategic plan, but they did it specifically for their
20 snapper grouper process. My understanding is this was almost a
21 two-year exercise, and it took up a greater portion of the first
22 morning of every council meeting for a while.

23
24 Then, finally, the Caribbean Council is just in their very, very
25 beginning of a public visioning process, and I think they're
26 just starting to get the ball rolling there, and so, with that,
27 I can take any questions that you guys might have, but I just
28 wanted to sort of lay out the options that you have if you are
29 interested in this kind of thing.

30
31 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Emily, I have a question. Is council staff
32 prepared for this, and do they fully understand the scope and
33 the scope of work that would be involved in a successful
34 strategic planning process?

35
36 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** We just want to get some feedback
37 on if you want us to look at this in more depth. If you don't,
38 then we're fine. If you do, then we would bring more
39 information to that, regarding this, to you.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mr. Donaldson.

42
43 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think strategic
44 planning has some utility, if it's done correctly. I don't -- I
45 have been through a lot of strategic planning processes, and, if
46 we're just doing it to kind of check a box -- I think one of the
47 issues that Emily identified is how do we know that we were
48 successful, and I think that's a key to that. If we do it, we

1 need to have some metrics that say, okay, we have accomplished -
2 - We have identified five things, and we accomplished three out
3 of five, or whatever.

4
5 I think there's some utility, like I said, if we do it, and we
6 do it correctly, and I think that it would be -- It potentially
7 could be useful. Through GulfFIN, we do a strategic planning
8 exercise every five years, and it helps us map out what we want
9 to focus on in the next five years, and so I personally think
10 that it would be useful to get maybe a little more information
11 and see where it goes.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Ms. Guyas.

14
15 **MS. MARTHA GUYAS:** I will jump in, if you don't mind, and so a
16 couple of thoughts. As far as the South Atlantic process, I
17 kind of got to see a little bit of that, and it was very
18 expensive, I think, and very extensive, and I don't know that a
19 lot of those things really got to the finish line, and Chester
20 can probably weigh-in on that, but I think a lot of the
21 amendments that were formed during that process ultimately were
22 abandoned, or just a couple of pieces ended up making to the
23 finish line, and so I would, if we go down this road, suggest
24 scaling this down pretty significantly.

25
26 Another thing that I kind of have some hesitancy about is maybe
27 the timing of it right now. We've got some pretty big issues in
28 front of us, with allocation and FES issues, and I feel like, if
29 we're really going to be productive with this, we probably need
30 to hammer those our first.

31
32 One thing I think maybe that we maybe could do though -- Going
33 back to allocation, one of the things that we're supposed to be
34 working on is reviewing like the goals and objectives of the
35 FMPs, and we've done that for reef fish, but we haven't done
36 that for other fisheries, and so it seems like that there could
37 be an opportunity do that, or link that in the visioning, if
38 we're going to go down that road, and that's just my thoughts.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Chester.

41
42 **MR. CHESTER BREWER:** Martha is quite correct that it was very
43 expensive, and it was incredibly time-consuming. We actually
44 had special meetings in Charleston to discuss the visioning
45 project. At the end of the day, Martha is correct again, that
46 there was very, very little in that process that was actually
47 brought to fruition, and, in fact, the main thing that we were
48 trying to do in that process, at the end, was devise a system

1 whereby we were managing shallow-water groupers as a group and
2 deepwater groupers as a group, because we've got, obviously,
3 some significant problems, from the standpoint of deepwater
4 grouper.

5
6 I think it was at the last meeting, or the meeting before, that
7 we moved to the considered but not adopted, or whatever it is we
8 call it when we put something on the table, and, by putting on
9 the table, I mean kill it, almost all of the different proposals
10 that came out of the visioning process.

11
12 I would also caution that this is something you don't want to
13 let get out of hand and let it get too big, because, if you do,
14 now you're getting into a situation where you've got a process
15 that takes years and, during that time period, the priorities,
16 the issues and things, may well change, and they did for us, and
17 so we ended up not getting much utility out of it at all.

18
19 Now, one thing that we have started doing, that I have seen some
20 real benefit to, is, towards the end of every meeting, and you
21 all may do this, and I don't know, but, towards the end of every
22 meeting, we have essentially a survey that goes out to all the
23 council members, and we take all of the different fishery
24 management plans, all the different issues that we're dealing
25 with, and we rank them.

26
27 At the very end of the meeting, those rankings come back, on
28 essentially a nicely-colored spreadsheet, and we discuss them,
29 and say there's something that you really think should be the
30 number-one, two, three priority, or not.

31
32 Another really nice part of that is, for each say FMP, the piece
33 of work that we're doing there, it will show how many council
34 meetings, or how long it's anticipated that that work will take,
35 and so we're able to fit those together to get I think maybe the
36 best efficiency that we can and also being able to bring forward
37 those issues that we think are most appropriate. In closing, I
38 would just say don't do what we did. Absolutely don't do what
39 we did.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** I guess I am asking myself a question, but,
42 from what I have heard, just like Dave, I have gone through a
43 lot of these processes, and they are complicated, and they're
44 expensive, and, when they're done, we don't know why we did
45 them, and we don't really have a clear direction going forward.

46
47 A good starting point, where we can test the waters, would be a
48 survey of not just council members, but stakeholders and

1 stakeholder groups, to see if what we're doing is consistent
2 with what their goals and expectations are. Now, that may take
3 us nowhere, but, if we get a situation where 80 percent of the
4 respondents say we're doing a terrible job and we're not
5 addressing the key issues, that tells us something.

6
7 If people think we are addressing the key issues, that tells us
8 something else again, and so, rather than spending lots of money
9 and time and effort, perhaps we can start with something like an
10 electronic survey, and I think it's really important to get
11 feedback from stakeholders and stakeholder groups of is what
12 we're doing making sense to them, are the actions that we're
13 taking making sense to them, or are we not meeting the
14 expectations of these folks? Any other input? Dr. Frazer.

15
16 **DR. TOM FRAZER:** Just a question actually for Chester, I think.
17 I realize that it was an expensive and an extensive process, and
18 you may not have gotten to where you wanted to go, but there is
19 -- It involves the public and all the stakeholder groups, and
20 there's a cost of not going through that process, even if you
21 end up nowhere, as you said, but Phil's point is a very good
22 one.

23
24 I think, if you have some type of engagement with your
25 stakeholder groups, to let you know if you're on the right track
26 or not, that can guide the process moving forward, and so I
27 would not just dismiss it out of hand because it's expensive and
28 extensive and a complicated process.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mr. Brewer.

31
32 **MR. BREWER:** Thank you. Dr. Frazer, I think you're exactly
33 correct. Now, we did have hearings and workshops throughout the
34 process for public input, but we still got to the same place,
35 where it evolved into something that got so complicated that we
36 really couldn't deal with it.

37
38 I don't think there's any reason on this earth that you couldn't
39 have an electronic survey of stakeholders, or even face-to-face,
40 with regard to like, as Phil said, what kind of job are we doing
41 here, and do you feel like we're putting too much emphasis on
42 red snapper, as opposed to taking more of a look at whatever,
43 red drum, and just get the general feedback of what the public
44 thinks is important and whether the council is paying enough
45 attention to those issues that the public thinks is important,
46 and that's going to be a tenth of the cost of what we went
47 through, and I think you would get a lot more bang for your buck
48 doing it that way.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Any other discussion on this topic, or are we
3 ready to move on? Mr. Swindell.

4
5 **MR. SWINDELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am back here at the
6 first slide that she had, and it says, where are we going, where
7 are we currently, how do we get there, how do we know if we
8 succeeded? You know, this council has been together for God
9 knows how many years now, thirty years or more, and you kind of
10 started this thing at the beginning, and I just don't know if --
11 It's always great to have a strategic plan, but I don't know
12 that we're off-track. Do we feel like we're off-track at all,
13 on the way that we do things?

14
15 I have not gotten any feedback from anybody saying, hey, you're
16 being totally stupid, and we always have issues that we consider
17 of whether or not we're doing things right or not, but I don't
18 know that having a strategic plan is going to help us any. I
19 think there is a lot of money involved in it to get it done, and
20 who is going to do all of this? Would staff be doing it, just
21 staff, and, if not, if you have to involve council members, it
22 gets more costs involved, and does the staff really have time to
23 do all of this stuff, as Mr. Brewer pointed out?

24
25 I just don't know, and I have a gut feeling that we're barking
26 up a tree that it's not going to get us much for the money that
27 it takes, and there is, to me, a lot more things that we need to
28 be spending money on with fishery resource knowledge than doing
29 this to help us, and I think we're functioning okay. Are we
30 functioning great? Probably not, necessarily, but I think we're
31 doing the best job we can do. Just having a plan is not going
32 to change much, I'm afraid, and so that's all I have, Mr.
33 Chairman. Thank you.

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

36
37 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, guys, for entertaining
38 this notion, and it was just, from a staff perspective, a tool
39 that we were thinking the council could use for long-term
40 planning as to what they would like to see the fisheries look
41 like.

42
43 I think we can do the two things I think that were suggested.
44 Regarding a survey, I think we would have to think more about
45 that and talk to Mara about that, because we are subject to the
46 Paperwork Reduction Act, and so we can't just do the survey. I
47 think we can work with a contractor or something like that to do
48 a survey, but I would need to get with Ms. Levy about how we

1 could go about doing something like that.

2
3 Regarding the FMP objectives, I think that's certainly something
4 we have on our list of things, and we could bring it up at the
5 appropriate amendments for each fishery FMP, and so I think
6 that's a good suggestion, and so we'll put that in the report
7 and move forward that way, if that's okay, Mr. Chairman.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Dr. Simmons. Dr. Simmons, do you
10 have any other materials you wish to present on the 2020 budget?
11 I believe you do. Ms. Hager.

12
13 **MS. BETH HAGER:** If we could bring up Tab G, Number 5(c). Here,
14 we are presenting the 2019 funded budget, and it's set alongside
15 the 2020 proposed budget. As instructed by NOAA, we have
16 budgeted 2020 funding to be level with 2019. The figures are
17 presented in thousands, and they are categorized as we report
18 them to NOAA.

19
20 I am just going to go through some highlights of the differences
21 between the two years. Starting with personnel costs, they have
22 been adjusted to reflect a 2.85 percent COLA that we received on
23 January 1 of this year. In the category of part-time temporary
24 position, it's funding for an intern to assist technical staff
25 with biological and habitat work on amendments.

26
27 Our health insurance increased slightly. However, the new
28 dental and life insurance plans will have fixed rates for the
29 next two years, as a result of our plan change, and Tab G,
30 Number 6 details the specific changes of the life insurance
31 plan, when we get to that point.

32
33 Travel costs are based on the activity plan, as presented by Dr.
34 Simmons. These activities may be adjusted as work unfolds by
35 the time the final budget is presented. The 2019 equipment
36 costs were for the van replacement, and the 2020 equipment is
37 for a server update. Supplies are budgeted to be lower than
38 2019, as the workstations and council equipment have just been
39 updated, but we do plan to update the phone system, as the
40 manufacturer is no longer in business for the phone system that
41 we currently have.

42
43 Contractual costs include \$80,000 set-aside for the visioning or
44 strategic planning project, which can be reallocated when we
45 present the final budget, if necessary. Rent costs increased
46 slightly, as per our lease agreement, and other costs down below
47 are increasing nominally.

1 We do plan to bring a funded budget request before the council
2 later in the year. As of right now, we have received \$1,723,128
3 of our 2020 funding, and that's about 44 percent if we receive
4 funding that is level to the 2019 numbers. Does anybody have
5 any questions about the budget that we have presented here, or
6 the proposed budget?

7

8 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mr. Swindell.

9

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

12

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

20

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

30

31

32 **UPDATES TO ADMINISTRATIVE HANDBOOK**

33

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

38

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

46

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

1 language and makes it consistent.

2
3 Additionally, the premiums for all policies will be for two
4 years, and I think I mentioned that. We have had experience
5 with this vendor, and we feel that it was outstanding
6 opportunity to offer richer benefits at a significant cost
7 savings to the council.

8
9 Item 2 here is an update to the location of the training
10 required for our telework policy. Item 3 more accurately
11 reflects the terms of our grant award relating to foreign
12 travel, and the last item is just a housekeeping update for
13 staff names.

14
15 We may bring back handbook changes later in the year for
16 additional changes, as we may need to revise the FMLA area to
17 incorporate the guidance on the new federal parental leave
18 mandate, and so we'll have to see how that shakes out as the
19 year progresses.

20
21 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Beth. Does anyone have any
22 questions about these updates to the handbook? If not, we will
23 move on to the next item, which is a review of the ad hoc
24 advisory panels. Do you have anything further to add to this,
25 Dr. Simmons? I know we talked about them earlier.

26
27 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** On the previous item or this item?
28 I'm sorry.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** The ad hoc advisory panels, the next item on
31 the list. Is there anything further that you would like to add
32 on this?

33
34 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Yes, and I will walk the committee
35 through it. I think, Dave, you had your hand up, though.

36
37 **MR. DONALDSON:** Do we need a motion to accept those changes to
38 the admin policy or not?

39
40 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** It would be nice.

41
42 **MR. DONALDSON:** I so move then.

43
44 **MS. GUYAS:** Second.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** We have a motion and a second. Is there any
47 discussion on the motion to accept the changes to the handbook,
48 as stated? **If not, is anybody opposed to the motion? The**

1 motion carries.
2

3 **REVIEW OF ADVISORY PANELS**
4 **REVIEW OF AD HOC ADVISORY PANELS**
5

6 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is
7 Tab G, Number 7(a). In 2015, the council passed a motion that
8 you would evaluate your ad hoc advisory panels at the beginning
9 of every year, to deem if the panel has completed their
10 assignments and they can be disbanded or if there's more work
11 for them to do or if the charges would need to be amended for
12 those panels.
13

14 The two ad hoc advisory panels the council currently has are the
15 Red Snapper Private Angler AP and the Red Snapper/Grouper-
16 Tilefish IFQ AP, and we have when they were appointed on there,
17 their charge, the number of meetings that have been held, and,
18 if you go down a little bit, I think those are active links to
19 the summaries. The IFQ AP was more recently repopulated, and
20 they haven't been convened. Last year, they weren't convened,
21 but they were prior to that, and you can see they were convened
22 twice in 2018.
23

24 The biggest question I have regarding these two ad hoc APs are,
25 for the Red Snapper Private Angler AP, I think, if we are to
26 keep this advisory panel, we would need to think about their
27 charge and what their task would be for the council moving
28 forward, and so I would like to get some feedback on that, if I
29 can, by at least Full Council.
30

31 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Ms. Guyas.
32

33 **MS. GUYAS:** As far as the Red Snapper Private Angler AP goes, I
34 think we can probably disband it. That is now being handled by
35 the states, and so I think the council has done what they're
36 going to do there. I can make a motion to that effect, if you
37 would like.
38

39 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Before you do that, Martha, I was just -- Just
40 as you started to speak, I was going to ask the same question.
41 How do the rest of the states feel about this?
42

43 **MR. LANCE ROBINSON:** At least from our perspective in Texas, I
44 would support Martha's contention, and I'm not sure that there's
45 a lot of value going forward, now that the states are involved
46 with that.
47

48 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** General Spraggins.

1
2 **GENERAL SPRAGGINS:** Mississippi is the same way. We would
3 support what Martha is talking about, and I think it's good.
4
5 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Kevin.
6
7 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** We would, too. As I recall, and I don't know
8 if you want to call it getting out of the weeds, but they
9 certainly wanted a lot more information about how the
10 recreational estimates were derived, and they kind of were
11 getting -- They really wanted to delve into a lot of the issues,
12 I think, that we didn't have any intention for them to do, and
13 so I would agree that it's probably better for us to just not
14 have any more meetings. Thank you.
15
16 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** I would agree, but how do the other council
17 members that are in a recreational seat feel about this? Are
18 you comfortable with it? Chris.
19
20 **MR. CHRIS SCHIEBLE:** I concur as well, and I think the EFP
21 seasons that we had for the last two years are good examples as
22 to how effectively it was managed, and so I don't have an issue
23 with it.
24
25 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Ms. Boggs.
26
27 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to see
28 the reports that the states are going to be presenting on how
29 it's working before I make a decision. One of the questions
30 that I do have, and I understand that the data collection is in
31 place, but I don't know that I understand how the states are
32 dealing with discards.
33
34 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Does anybody else have any comments on this?
35 Ms. Guyas, would you like to present a motion?
36
37 **MS. GUYAS:** I will go ahead and make a motion to disband the Red
38 Snapper Private Angler Ad Hoc Advisory Panel.
39
40 **GENERAL SPRAGGINS:** I will second.
41
42 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** We have a motion and a second, and the motion
43 was by Martha Guyas, and the second was by General Spraggins.
44 Do we have any discussion on this motion?
45
46 **MR. SWINDELL:** What's going to happen then when we want to have
47 some review by the advisory panel? Do we have to go through the
48 whole lengthy process of meeting and establishing another panel

1 to get it ready to have a group available? I am afraid that
2 it's just going to add more time, and why not just keep the
3 panel the way it is?

4

5 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Ms. Guyas.

6

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

12

13 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mr. Brewer.

14

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

23

24 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Are there any other questions on this motion?
25 **If not, is there any opposition to this motion? If not, the**
26 **motion passes.** Any other questions on the ad hoc committees?
27 Dr. Simmons, did you have anything else to mention?

28

29

REVIEW OF COASTAL MIGRATORY PELAGICS AND RED DRUM APs

30

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

35

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

45

46 We currently are not anticipating convening the Red Drum AP, but
47 what we're asking is do you want to keep the current membership
48 of these advisory panels, or would you like us to re-advertise

1 and look at new applicants in April and then finalize those
2 applications in June, after background checks? If you wanted to
3 do that, either way, please let us know via a motion.

4

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

7

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

15

16 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Simmons.

17

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

22

23 **MS. BOGGS:** I said reappoint.

24

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

27

28 **MS. BOGGS:** Yes, and I though that's what I said.

29

30 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I'm sorry. Yes.

31

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

33

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

38

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

41

42 **MS. BOGGS:** Correct.

43

44 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Is there a second for this motion? Ms. Guyas
45 seconds the motion. Is there any discussion on this motion? **Is**
46 **anybody opposed to this motion? If not, the motion carries.**
47 Dr. Simmons.

48

1 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have
2 nothing else.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you. We're down to the last item on
5 this agenda, and we're on schedule, or actually ahead of
6 schedule, which is a good thing, and is there any other business
7 that we want to discuss on the Administrative and Budget
8 Committee? Ms. Boggs.

9
10 **MS. BOGGS:** Did we discuss the Ad Hoc Red Snapper/Grouper-
11 Tilefish IFQ?

12
13 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** We did not discuss it, but it's my
14 understanding that there wasn't the intent to take any action on
15 it, whereas we discussed the recreational red snapper group
16 because it was decided to disband it. Any other questions about
17 anything before this committee or new business? If not, Mr.
18 Chairman, this concludes our report.

19
20 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on January 27, 2020.)