

1 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2  
3 ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET COMMITTEE

4  
5 Webinar

6  
7 JUNE 15, 2020

8  
9 **VOTING MEMBERS**

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

19  
20 **NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

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

30  
31 **STAFF**

32 Assane Diagne.....Economist  
33 Matt Freeman.....Economist  
34 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director  
35 Lisa Hollensead.....Fishery Biologist  
36 Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist  
37 Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel  
38 Jessica Matos.....Document Editor & Administrative Assistant  
39 Natasha Mendez-Ferrer.....Fishery Biologist  
40 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer  
41 Kathy Pereira.....Meeting Planner & Travel Coordinator  
42 Ryan Rindone.....Fishery Biologist & SEDAR Liaison  
43 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager  
44 Charlotte Schiaffo.....Administrative & Human Resources Assistant  
45 Camilla Shireman.....Administrative & Communications Assistant  
46 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director  
47 Carly Somerset.....Fisheries Outreach Specialist

1 **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

2 Peter Hood.....NMFS  
3 Jack McGovern.....NMFS  
4 Steve Poland.....SAFMC  
5 Clay Porch.....SEFSC  
6 Chris Schieble.....LA  
7 Joe Spraggins.....MS

8  
9 - - -  
10

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PAGE 6: Motion to approve the staff's suggested text for both Sections 3.0 and 3.6. The motion carried on page 9.

1 The Administrative/Budget Committee of the Gulf of Mexico  
2 Fishery Management Council convened via webinar on Monday  
3 morning, June 15, 2020, and was called to order by Chairman Phil  
4 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/Budget Committee to order. The first item is to  
12 adopt the agenda, and so I would entertain a motion to do that  
13 at this time.

14  
15 **GENERAL JOE SPRAGGINS:** Motion from Mississippi.

16  
17 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Second.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you. Any opposition to that motion?  
20 Hearing none, the motion passes. The next item is the Approval  
21 of the January 2020 Minutes, and I would entertain a motion to  
22 accept those.

23  
24 **MR. LANCE ROBINSON:** So moved.

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you. I need a second.

27  
28 **MR. DONALDSON:** Second.

29  
30 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Dave. Is there any opposition?  
31 Hearing no opposition, the motion passes. The next item on the  
32 agenda is the Action Guide and Next Steps, which is Tab G,  
33 Number 3. Dr. Simmons will lead us with this, and I believe  
34 there is a requirement for a motion at the end of this  
35 presentation. Dr. Simmons.

36  
37 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
38 Hello, everyone. It's good to see you, even if it is virtually.  
39 I am going to go through Tab G, Number 3. Just a reminder is,  
40 during our May council meeting, the council reviewed Section 3.0  
41 of the Council Meetings section of the SOPPs, and they made some  
42 changes, you made some changes, to that, and that's now  
43 reflected in Tab G, Number 4.

44  
45 Then you decided that you wanted to discuss this again in June,  
46 and so we've put it back on the agenda, and we have included  
47 some excerpts from the South Atlantic Council's SOPPs for you to  
48 consider, and they're in Tab G, Number 4, as well as what's

1 currently written in our SOPPs, and then some proposed changes  
2 from staff. I will stop there.

3  
4 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Are there any questions for Dr. Simmons at  
5 this point? Hearing none, I'm going to ask Dr. Simmons to  
6 continue.

7  
8 **DISCUSSION OF SOPPs: SECTION 3.0 - COUNCIL MEETINGS**

9  
10 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As you  
11 recall, I think Dr. Crabtree brought up the South Atlantic  
12 Council's administrative handbook and what they had written in  
13 there regarding in-person meetings, and so this is an excerpt  
14 from their handbook.

15  
16 You made a change in May that you have -- It's the third  
17 sentence down: Council members must be physically present at  
18 Council meetings in order to present a motion or vote, unless  
19 approved to do so remotely by a majority decision of the  
20 Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Executive Director. This is what  
21 is currently written in the SOPPs, as amended during your May  
22 meeting.

23  
24 The other part was a lot of discussion about having the public  
25 involvement and the importance of in-person meetings, and so  
26 staff has proposed two changes. Before the section you amended  
27 in May, we're suggesting the blue text there for your  
28 consideration, and so that section, and also, for Section 3.6,  
29 for Location, we're suggesting adding the blue text, or some  
30 version of that, under 3.6, Location, in the SOPPs. I will stop  
31 there.

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** We will entertain questions at this point, if  
34 anyone has any questions. Continue, Dr. Simmons.

35  
36 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I think we might have some  
37 questions. Bernie, can you put something on the screen, so we  
38 know who has a question? Tom, you had a question, correct?

39  
40 **DR. TOM FRAZER:** I did. I was just thinking that it might be  
41 good, with the tab that was up, showing in blue, if we could  
42 reduce the screen size just a bit, so we could see the blue.

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** In the meantime, we had a question from Susan  
45 Boggs. Susan.

46  
47 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have a  
48 question, but I was just going to make a motion to approve the

1 **staff's suggested text for both Sections 3.0 and 3.6.**  
2  
3 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Do we have a second for that motion?  
4  
5 **GENERAL SPRAGGINS:** I will second.  
6  
7 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay. We have a motion and a second. Is  
8 there any discussion on that motion?  
9  
10 **DR. FRAZER:** Phil, let's just slow down for just a second, as  
11 we're working through the technology here, and we'll let the  
12 staff get that motion on the board.  
13  
14 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay. That's fine. Tom, while we're getting  
15 that on the board, I have a question that is regard to a point  
16 of order. It's my understanding that the -- Then, at Full  
17 Council, we take it for a final vote, and is that correct?  
18  
19 **DR. FRAZER:** That's correct.  
20  
21 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** While we're doing that, let me just remind  
22 everybody of who the voting members of the committee are. It's  
23 myself, Phil Dyskow, Dr. Paul Mickle, who is Vice Chair, Patrick  
24 Banks, Susan Boggs, Dave Donaldson, Martha Guyas, Robin  
25 Riechers, Dr. Bob Shipp, Ed Swindell, and Troy Williamson, and  
26 the two staff members on this committee are Dr. Carrie Simmons  
27 and Beth Hager.  
28  
29 **GENERAL SPRAGGINS:** Real quick, it will be Joe Spraggins as the  
30 Vice, because I'm the one that's on the --  
31  
32 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** That would be fine. We had two hands up, from  
33 Ed Swindell and also from Martha Guyas. Ed, why don't you go  
34 first?  
35  
36 **MR. ED SWINDELL:** I tried to take my hand down, but it didn't  
37 work, and so I'm okay.  
38  
39 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** All right. Thank you. Martha.  
40  
41 **MS. MARTHA GUYAS:** Mine is just a clarification for the  
42 suggested language under 3.6. That's in addition to what's  
43 already in the SOPPs, correct, for that section?  
44  
45 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Correct.  
46  
47 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Yes, it would be in addition.  
48

1 **MS. GUYAS:** Thanks.  
2  
3 **DR. FRAZER:** Phil, I think it might be helpful, and we have that  
4 motion on the board, if you would be so kind as to go ahead and  
5 read the highlighted text in both Section 3.0 and 3.6, for the  
6 record.  
7  
8 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** I will do that. In Section 3.0, the suggested  
9 change is: The council prefers in-person meetings with the  
10 ability to freely discuss and exchange information and the  
11 interaction with the public. However, health, budgetary, and/or  
12 time constraints may require virtual participation of a council  
13 member when an in-person council meeting is held. Therefore,  
14 council members must be physically present at in-person council  
15 meetings in order to present a motion or vote, unless approved  
16 to do so remotely by a majority decision of the Chairman, Vice-  
17 Chairman, and Executive Director.  
18  
19 **DR. FRAZER:** Thank you.  
20  
21 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mara Levy has a question. Mara.  
22  
23 **MS. MARA LEVY:** Thank you. I just wanted to -- The part that  
24 says "health, budgetary, and/or time constraints", is that  
25 supposed to be some sort of limiting list, or are you just  
26 noting those as examples? I mean, I don't know what else there  
27 would be, but I just want to make sure that you're not -- When  
28 we come back later to this, if the intent was for it to be only  
29 these three things, that we know that it's not, or, if it is,  
30 that it is.  
31  
32 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** I would direct that to staff, since they wrote  
33 it.  
34  
35 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, Ms.  
36 Levy, it was just a suggestion of examples, and we were also  
37 trying to refer and incorporate some of the things that the  
38 South Atlantic Council's handbook had listed in their SOPPs as  
39 well.  
40  
41 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Carrie, for clarifying that. I  
42 have one other point of order. I want to make sure that the  
43 seconder of this motion was a member of the committee, and could  
44 you read back who seconded this motion, please?  
45  
46 **DR. FRAZER:** I believe that was General Spraggins.  
47  
48 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Great. Thank you. If there is no other



1 discussion, and I see that there are no hands up, I would like  
2 to call for a vote on this motion, and, again, this is for the  
3 committee members only, and what is your preference, Dr. Frazer?  
4 Would you like a roll call vote, or how would you like to  
5 proceed?  
6

7 **DR. FRAZER:** We want to make sure, Phil, before we proceed -- I  
8 am not sure that we read the second part of the modified text,  
9 Section 3.6.

10  
11 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** I will read that right now. **The council**  
12 **prefers holding in-person meetings. However, national**  
13 **emergencies, health pandemics, natural catastrophes, budgetary,**  
14 **and time-sensitive issues may require the use of remote meeting**  
15 **technologies. In these rare cases, the council is prepared to**  
16 **hold virtual meetings using alternative technologies for**  
17 **committee and council meetings. Members of the public will be**  
18 **given the opportunity to provide written and/or verbal comments**  
19 **during virtual meetings of the Full Council.**  
20

21 **DR. FRAZER:** Thank you, Phil. Just to your point, I think, as a  
22 general way of operating in this format, I would exercise some  
23 judgment with regard to the amount of discussion, as it relates  
24 to the motion, and, if the discussion is limited, or non-  
25 controversial, I would probably opt to see if there was any  
26 opposition to the motion, or if there's no opposition to the  
27 motion, and we will accept the motion. I will leave it to you,  
28 but that would be my suggestion.

29  
30 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Of the two alternatives, one would be a roll  
31 call vote of the committee, and the other would be to determine  
32 if there's any opposition, and I agree with the Chair. Let us  
33 proceed in that manner. **Is there any opposition to this motion**  
34 **from the committee? Hearing none, the motion passes.**  
35

36 Next, we will move on to Other Business. I have only received  
37 one comment regarding other business, and a non-committee member  
38 pointed out, and no surprise, and it's been a very disruptive  
39 year, and the council has a lot of unfinished business, and that  
40 individual, that council member, asked me to bring up the idea  
41 of extending the term of the Chair and the Vice Chair for an  
42 additional year, to allow them the opportunity to complete the  
43 business that we have at hand, and I would like to open that up  
44 for discussion. Would the person that made the suggestion like  
45 to give any comments?  
46

47 **OTHER BUSINESS**  
48 **DISCUSSION OF EXTENDING CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR TERMS**

1  
2 **MR. JOHN SANCHEZ:** My comments regarding that suggestion, and I  
3 appreciate you bringing it up, Mr. Chairman, was that I feel  
4 that, due to the pandemic and the disruption that the COVID  
5 virus has caused, the Chair and the Vice Chair, who have both  
6 done, in my opinion, an exceptional job, haven't had a true  
7 second term, and so, while I don't want to change our procedure  
8 of only allowing two terms, I think an exception to that rule,  
9 without rewriting the playbook, might be warranted, given these  
10 unique circumstances, and so that is why I brought this up for  
11 committee member discussion.

12  
13 Just to be clear, I would really like it if they had a chance to  
14 have a complete, unhindered second term, as that has not been  
15 the case, both the Chair and the Vice Chair, assuming they are  
16 agreeable to that. Thank you.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** We also have a question from Leann. Leann,  
19 you have the floor.

20  
21 **MS. LEANN BOSARGE:** Thanks, Mr. Dyskow. Yes, I would be in  
22 support of that, as an exception in this case to the SOPPs, and  
23 my rationale, and I haven't really thought about this, but, when  
24 you take over as Chair or Vice Chair, there is a decent learning  
25 curve of things that you have to do and what your role is and  
26 logistically how to perform those functions.

27  
28 That may be a difficult thing to navigate for a new Chair or  
29 Vice Chair that hasn't been in that role before in the  
30 environment that we're in, where we're doing virtual webinars,  
31 and they're not actually face-to-face and in a meeting with  
32 staff right there by their side, and so I would say, yes, this  
33 may be a time where we would want to extend that term for an  
34 additional year for Dr. Frazer and Mr. Diaz.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Leann. Mara Levy also has her hand  
37 up for a question.

38  
39 **MS. LEVY:** Thank you. When you're talking about this, I just  
40 think we need to be clear whether we're talking about an  
41 exception to the provision that says that the Chair and Vice  
42 Chair can serve no more than two consecutive terms, right, and  
43 so there's that piece, and then there's the idea that they are  
44 elected for one-year terms, and that election happens in August.

45  
46 I think just think about what you're talking about, because  
47 we're not going to sort of extend their terms at this meeting,  
48 necessarily, but I'm just not sure whether you're saying have

1 their term be two years instead of one or let's just make an  
2 exception to that provision that doesn't allow them to do more  
3 than two consecutive terms.

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Mara. John Sanchez has his hand  
6 up, and we'll go on to him.

7  
8 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, not a committee  
9 member, but, to Mara's point, I have no problem being, I guess,  
10 the proponent of this, that we could, in August, when we re-do  
11 these votes on who the Chair and Vice Chair are, if we kind of  
12 couch this as allow them to have one-time exception to be once  
13 again nominated and do an additional year term, and I would be  
14 fine with that.

15  
16 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Are there any other comments at this time? I  
17 think the way to proceed with this, unless Tom views it  
18 differently, is, if we wish to go forward with this, I would  
19 entertain a motion from a committee member, and then we will  
20 vote on that motion, after discussion, and then it will, of  
21 course, go before the full board prior to the end of this  
22 meeting, but we have a question from Susan Boggs.

23  
24 **MS. BOGGS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Back to I want to clarify  
25 with Mara. Is this something that we would need to take action  
26 on today, or is this something that will be addressed in August,  
27 when the election comes back up? Do we need to do something to  
28 modify our SOPPs today that would allow us to make that motion  
29 and vote in August?

30  
31 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Mara, you have the floor, if you would like to  
32 respond.

33  
34 **MS. LEVY:** Thank you. I guess it depends what you're trying to  
35 do. I mean, if you're not -- If you don't want to modify the  
36 SOPPs, per se, and, I guess, my advice would always be that we  
37 should be following our SOPPs, and I know that exceptions come  
38 up, and the SOPPs don't really allow for exceptions.

39  
40 You could modify it to allow for exceptions, although I  
41 understand that that might not be desirable, because we don't  
42 really anticipate this coming up again, and so, to the extent  
43 you want to modify the SOPPs and have them applicable at the  
44 next meeting, you could do that here, and you could probably  
45 also get it done at the next meeting, before you actually take  
46 the vote, because we do that at the end of the meeting, and I  
47 don't know if anyone wants to reconsider the idea of having the  
48 term limit, meaning -- I assume it was put in there for a

1 reason, and we have it in there, and so I guess I don't know how  
2 far you want to go, but I think you could either do it here or  
3 it could get done at the next meeting.

4  
5 If you're not going to modify the SOPPs, then I really think at  
6 the next meeting, because, if you're just going to say for this  
7 one time we're going to make an exception and allow them to be  
8 re-nominated for an additional term, then that's not really --  
9 That would apply at the next meeting, and I hope that makes  
10 sense.

11  
12 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** That makes sense to me. As chair of the  
13 committee, what I would prefer is that we have placed this in  
14 the record, and it will be in the minutes, and it will be  
15 brought up again during our final report to the Full Council,  
16 and I think, for right now, let's just recognize that this is a  
17 discussion point within the committee, and we've had input from  
18 other council members regarding the feasibility and advisability  
19 of this, and that we will discuss it further during the full  
20 session, and this will give staff time to evaluate this, and  
21 maybe we'll just punt it down to the next meeting, as far as a  
22 motion and a vote. Does that make sense to everybody?

23  
24 **MR. DONALDSON:** Yes.

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Well, if that makes sense, we will do that,  
27 and, if staff needs any more input, they can ask for it during  
28 our report at the full session, and, Carrie, did you have your  
29 hand up?

30  
31 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** No, I didn't, but I think Mr.  
32 Sanchez did.

33  
34 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** John, you have the floor.

35  
36 **MR. SANCHEZ:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only reason why I  
37 brought it up at this meeting, and I was thinking about that,  
38 was I didn't want to, as we're going into the nominations in  
39 August, to kind of surprise the council and the committee  
40 members with this, and so I thought a more prudent course would  
41 have been to bring it up now and see how everybody feels about  
42 it, and then we can collectively look at this in a timely manner  
43 and not spring it on everybody in August.

44  
45 That said, I totally agree that, if you guys want to punt it, as  
46 a committee, to Full Council, and then we can get into making  
47 motions and such then, I'm absolutely fine with that, too.  
48 Thank you.

1  
2 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thanks, John. What I would ask from council  
3 staff is that, when we discuss this at the full session later in  
4 this meeting, that you give us some direction on how we would  
5 have to proceed with this to be consistent with our operating  
6 procedures, and so, during full session, we can revisit this  
7 issue, and perhaps you can provide us some input on how we would  
8 have to proceed, whether an amendment is required or we can  
9 simply do this in a less formal manner, and so, with that said,  
10 we can end the discussion on this point, and, coincidentally,  
11 that also ends the report and presentation from the Admin and  
12 Budget Committee, and so, unless there is any other new  
13 business, I will close this meeting of the committee. Thank  
14 you.

15  
16 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on June 15, 2020.)

17  
18 - - -  
19