GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET COMMITTEE

Astor Crowne Plaza                        New Orleans, Louisiana

January 30, 2017

VOTING MEMBERS
Kelly Lucas (designee for Jamie Miller).................Mississippi
Kevin Anson (designee for Chris Blankenship)...........Alabama
Doug Boyd................................................Texas
Campo Matens........................................Louisiana
Robin Riechers.........................................Texas
Ed Swindell..........................................Louisiana
David Walker........................................Alabama

NON-VOTING MEMBERS
Leann Bosarge........................................Mississippi
Pamela Dana........................................Florida
LCDR Leo Danaher......................................USCG
Dale Diaz..............................................Mississippi
Dave Donaldson........................................GSMFC
Myron Fischer (designee for Patrick Banks)............Louisiana
Tom Frazer.............................................Florida
John Greene...........................................Alabama
Martha Guyas (designee for Nick Wiley)................Florida
John Sanchez..........................................Florida
Greg Stunz...........................................Texas

STAFF
Steven Atran........................................Senior Fishery Biologist
Douglas Gregory....................................Executive Director
Mara Levy..............................................NMFS
Emily Muehlstein.............................Public Information Officer
Ryan Rindone.........................................Fishery Biologist/SEDAR Liaison
Bernadine Roy.......................................Office Manager
Charlotte Schiaffo.....................Research and Human Resource Librarian
Carrie Simmons...........................Deputy Director

OTHER PARTICIPANTS
Eric Brazer................................................GMRFSA
J.P. Brooker.........................................Ocean Conservancy
Mark Brown........................................SAFMC
Tony Bruce............................................Zachary, LA
Gary Bryant........................................Gulf Shores, AL
Richard Fischer......................................LA
Traci Floyd...........................................MS DMR
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TABLE OF MOTIONS

PAGE 10: Motion that the Red Drum AP openings not be advertised, but be rolled over until the three-year term ends. The motion carried on page 10.
The Administrative/Budget Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council convened at the Astor Crowne Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana, Monday morning, January 30, 2017, and was called to order by Chairman Kelly Lucas.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CHAIRMAN KELLY LUCAS: Good morning, everybody. The first order of business is Adoption of the Agenda. Are there any corrections to the agenda? Seeing none, the agenda passes. Next up, we have approval of the minutes. Can I get a motion to approve the minutes or any corrections to the minutes from anybody? Seeing no corrections to the minutes, we will approve the minutes. Next up, Mr. Gregory, with the Action Guide and Next Steps.

ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOUG GREGORY: Thank you, Madam Chair. A quick announcement. For those of you that are picking up our flash drives with the agenda, those were done on Friday. Any changes we make to the agenda today, and like we just got a revised presentation from CLS, any of those revisions will be on the website, and so, if you’ve got an older version of something, that is what has happened.

The Action Guide and Next Steps, Tab G, Number 3, we only have two major agenda items. One is a Review of Advisory Panels. There are two aspects to this. One is an annual review of the ad hoc advisory panels.

The council, two years ago, said they wanted to review the ad hoc APs at the beginning of each year, to see if they all needed to be continued and if any of them needed to be re-advertised, and so that’s the first thing there.

The second agenda item for advisory panels is it’s time for the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Advisory Panel and the Red Drum Advisory Panel to be re-advertised, based on the staggered system we set up two years ago. These two had a two-year timeframe. Even though they were formed in 2015, they’re up for reappointment in 2017, and so we’ll do that.

Then the next major agenda item is Council Participation in the Marine Resource Education Program, and I will talk about that. The first thing for us to look at are the ad hoc advisory panels, and that is Tab G, Number 4(a).
REVIEW OF ADVISORY PANELS

AD HOC ADVISORY PANELS

We have five ad hoc panels. At the bottom of this document is the listing of the memberships. What I don’t have here, and I can get it by the council meeting, if needed, is I don’t have the membership attendance records for all the members, but you can see that the Artificial Substrate Ad Hoc met twice. They were formed in 2012.

The Red Snapper Charter/For-Hire Panel has met twice. The Ad Hoc Red Snapper IFQ has not met since they were formed in August of 2015. The Ad Hoc Reef Fish Headboat has met twice, and then we also had a joint meeting of the headboat and charter boat just this month. The Ad Hoc Red Snapper Private Angler Committee, which was just formed at the last meeting, and we’re arranging a meeting for them in the near future, has not met yet, and so whatever the committee wants to do as far as continuing these committees, dropping any of them or re-advertising any of them.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Mr. Riechers.

MR. ROBIN RIECHERS: Can I ask, Doug, if you remember -- I am trying to remember, but I think the Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate was created when we were having some discussions regarding artificial reefs and oil and gas exploration issues. Am I recalling that last, kind of when that came up again, and I recalling that correctly?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: It sounds right. That was before my time, as to when that committee was formed. Carrie, do you have any insight into that?

DR. CARRIE SIMMONS: I believe this group was really helping us when we were looking at the oil and gas platforms and the designations for EFH, or consideration of them as EFH, and I think we convened this group several times, possibly with the Shrimp AP, in combination, and it was probably in 2014, I believe, that we did that.

MR. RIECHERS: If that’s the case then, the table may not be correct, if we had convened them in 2014, and you said several times, and so I’m assuming that’s more than the two indicated here, the last one being in October of 2012, is what it suggests here.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Okay. I just realized that we made a mistake in putting this table together. The Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate, I think, was removed a couple of years ago. I have to look into that again, but I’m looking at our website, and it’s not listed, and so I think that was mistakenly included in this table, and so there’s four ad hoc committees that we currently have. Sorry for the confusion.

MR. RIECHERS: That makes it easy. We don’t have to remove them then.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Mr. Swindell.

MR. ED SWINDELL: I am also looking at the Ad Hoc Red Snapper IFQ committee that was formed in August of 2015. Do we still have a need to have this committee as an active committee?

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Mr. Walker.

MR. DAVID WALKER: Yes, I think we need to keep this committee, this ad hoc.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Mr. Anson.

MR. KEVIN ANSON: I just want to echo what David said, that I think we might, with 36B that’s coming up, that they could be called up to look at some things.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Any other questions regarding the ad hoc advisory panels? Mr. Gregory.

REAPPOINTMENT OF CMP AND RED DRUM ADVISORY PANELS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: With that, we will just continue the four that we have for another year. Then, in Tab 4(b), the first page is the Coastal Migratory Pelagics Advisory Panel membership. The number of meetings that have been held since 2015 is two, and this is their membership status. Normally, I would show you this data at the time of reappointment, but I thought that I would go ahead and show it to you now.

This committee is up for reappointment, given our staggered terms. If you go to the second page, the Red Drum Advisory Panel has not met since 2015, and so I would respectfully suggest to the committee that we re-advertise the Coastal Migratory Pelagics, but just simply reappoint the current Red Drum Advisory Panel for another three-year term. They have had
a two-year term, but they haven’t met.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Mr. Anson.

MR. ANSON: Doug, why would you want to advertise for one and not the other?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Because the Red Drum Advisory Panel has not met, and, in the past, when we’ve done something like this, it’s kind of bothersome, to me, to get comments back saying, well, this is fine, and you’re considering kicking me off the panel, but I haven’t even had a chance to participate in anything. Not everybody says that, but it just seems -- It’s awkward, to me, and they haven’t had a chance to participate or do anything.

MR. ANSON: In the past, has there been any communication with advisory panel members that are on committees that have not met over a period of time, to just kind of see if they’re still interested, maybe just so that we can maintain the numbers, in case a large portion of them decide to do something else or not participate, because they haven’t participated in a certain period of time, and is there any way to kind of gauge that feeling of participation or to confirm that they’re still willing to participate?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: We have not done that, no. It’s a good idea, and we can do that in the future, going forward.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Mr. Anson.

MR. ANSON: Maybe if you could that, and then, if it’s a certain percentage or something of folks that decide not to re-up, that maybe you bring that back to the council for discussion. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: I’ve just got a question. If we did that at this time, would it fit into the timeline? We can contact -- You can make a motion to re-advertise it if more than a certain number of people indicate that they want to drop out, but we can contact them even this week. We can send an email to them today and try to get comments back from them within the next week or two. If there is a sufficient number who are not interested in continuing, we could just re-advertise, either their particular slots or re-advertise the entire committee, whatever the council would like for me to do in moving forward with this. The other alternative would be to just re-appoint everybody for one year and then we can get this information for
you by next year, whichever way you want me to handle it.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Mr. Swindell.

MR. SWINDELL: Is that not too much administration handling, trying to get all this done every year? If you could do it every year, I think it would be a good thing to do, to make darned certain that people are indeed interested, and so, when we need them to meet on a quick basis, we can actually get something done and not have to wait around because we didn’t have enough committee members here.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Well, certainly going forward, if I had thought of this myself, we would have done this before this meeting and had that information for you, but it’s doable either way. The only category we would have that would be problematic would be people that don’t respond to an email immediately, for whatever reason. They’re on a trip, they’re on vacation, they’re out fishing.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Mr. Anson.

MR. ANSON: You went ahead and offered to do that, Doug, and I guess I didn’t suggest or ask that it be done, in this particular instance, but it’s just the concern that I have for those APs that don’t meet in a while. People change jobs, and they may not have free time where they did before, and so that’s all, and whether or not it would be a significant impact as we try to populate each AP with members from throughout the region, to try to maintain some sort of homogeneity of participation among states, and so that’s all.

I didn’t want to make it a big deal or put a kink in things. Whether or not if you postpone it a year, and if that throws it out of the cycle and kind of puts a kink in, as far as administrative planning and staff time, I didn’t want to create an undue burden, but that was just a concern that I brought up. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Mr. Gregory, do you need a motion or what are you looking for here?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: I would like a motion as to whether or not to re-advertise the Red Drum AP. I think it’s a given that we’ll re-advertise the Coastal Migratory Pelagics. It’s been two years since they were appointed. This is part of a staggering to get to everybody to have a staggered three-year term.
Last year, we had some APs come up that had only been appointed for one year, and we automatically reappointed them for three years without re-advertising. I think two years is a sufficient length of time and, for the Coastal Migratory Pelagics, it’s probably worth advertising, but, again, that’s the council’s direction. If you want to just continue both of these for another three years, we can do that, if you want me to.

I will certainly follow up with the Red Drum AP, as Mr. Anson suggested, and bring that information back to you in April. Let’s say if more than five people decide to drop out, I will automatically re-advertise them, if there’s a motion to that effect. That gives me direction. If less than five people want to drop out, then we won’t re-advertise the red drum, if that’s okay with the committee. It would be nice to have a motion.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: All right. Does anybody have a motion? Camp.

MR. CAMP MATENS: I move that we don’t advertise and that we just roll it over for another year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Just Red Drum or both committees?

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: We have a motion. We may have a question. Leann has a question.

MS. LEANN BOSARGE: Camp, are you moving that we roll it over for one year or for the typical three years?

MR. MATENS: You know, Leann, I kind of struggled with that. I wouldn’t mind modifying this, to roll it over for three years. These guys have never met. I know what’s going to happen. We’re going to get phone calls, I’m going to get phone calls, saying you guys have kicked me off and we never met. It has already happened, and, so, yes, I would like to change that to let’s roll it over for three years.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Robin.

MR. RIECHERS: Camp, I somewhat agree with you, but I’m struggling too, because they haven’t met. Some of them may have gone on to other things and have no interest in meeting or are at a point in their lives now where this is not of interest to them, versus when they applied.

While I don’t want to change your motion, I would recommend that we try to find some way to check in with these folks, and maybe
we thread the needle a little bit here. You reappoint them for
three, but you send a letter saying you’ve been reappointed. If
you still want to be active on this committee, please indicate
to us that you do, but it gives us some way -- If we lose
enough, in that respect, then it means that we come back here
anyhow.

I mean, this formation of the committees, even though we’ve
tried to create a schedule, it’s not set in stone, and so we can
certainly come back and visit if we were to lose several people
on the way like that.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: I have a motion, but I need a second.

MR. DOUG BOYD: I will second.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Thank you. We have a second. Kevin.

MR. ANSON: A point of clarification. There was a question, I
think from either Doug or Leann, regarding does this apply to
one of the APs or both.

MR. MATENS: Just the red drum.

MR. ANSON: Just the red drum, and so we might add that in
there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: We have a motion that the committee recommends
the Red Drum AP openings not be advertised, but be rolled over
until the three-year term ends. We also had some clarification
that Mr. Gregory was going to check in and let us know about
peoples’ intentions there.

MS. BOSARGE: Okay. That’s the clarification that I was making
sure of. We would reappoint, as it sits, and then, after the
fact, we would send out some sort of communication to gauge if
they do still want to, and then Doug will bring that back to us.

If we have a significant amount of people that are not
interested in being on it, then we will revisit, and I guess
repopulate, that particular portion of the group. I just want
to make sure that everybody is on the same page with where we’re
headed, because, if you just read it, what you see on the
screen, I don’t think you would get that part of it, but, as
long as we’re on the same page, I’m okay.

MR. MATENS: Yes, that’s fine. I don’t see that we need a
motion to do that. That’s administrative, and if that’s okay
with everybody else.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: I certainly understand the intent, and we will do that.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: All right. Are there any objections to the motion? Seeing no objections, the motion passes. Mr. Gregory, we are up to you and Item V.

COUNCIL PARTICIPATION IN MARINE RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM WORKSHOPS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Okay. This is Tab G, Number 5. The Marine Resource Education Program, there is a little slideshow, five slides, on your agenda. I am not going to go through them. That’s there for background information.

The Marine Recreational Education Program holds two workshops a year, one as a science workshop in the spring and a management workshop in the fall. The whole program is supported by the three southern councils, NOAA Fisheries, and fishermen in the Gulf and South Atlantic, and it’s run and coordinated through the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, where the Marine Resource Education Program started.

Then they moved to the Southeast, and they’ve been here for a number of years. A couple of years ago, they started asking if a council member wanted to attend, and that would be fine. It was an informal basis, if a seat was available.

We did that a couple of times, and we had some confusion about it, and so now we formally have the opportunity to have one seat at each workshop for a council member, and so we have a spring workshop coming up, and so I would ask -- I will send an email out at the end of this meeting, to the Full Council, asking who wants to participate in the workshops this year. Then we’ll let the Chair of the council select one person to attend the workshops.

That person will be attending the workshop as a private individual and not as a council member. The Marine Resource Education Program pays all your travel. There will be no stipends paid. This is as an individual.

If people are interested in going and they happen not to be selected by the Chair to fill that one council seat, they can still go through the application process, like everybody else does, to participate, and they will be vetted through -- It
depends on your background, and it depends on, I guess -- They try to get a cross-section of all the stakeholders to attend each workshop.

That is the process, and this is the first time we’re doing it formally. It’s been on a catch-as-catch-can basis in the past, and we’ve had some confusion about who pays travel and that sort of thing, and so I just wanted to clarify that.

This is a great opportunity. When we first talked about council members participating, we thought the science program would be most interesting, but David Walker attended both the management and the science program last year, and he thought the management program was equally informative, and so we’re not going to just select the science workshop, but actually encourage that whoever participates in one of them participates in both of them, and you can start this in either order. You can start with the science in the spring or you can start with the management workshop in the fall.

Whoever goes to the spring workshop would definitely get precedence to attend the management workshop, so they can complete the series. I just wanted to bring that to your attention. I will be sending an email out after this meeting, seeing who might be interested in attending these workshops, and we will get the dates of the workshops to you. As soon as we get those dates and stuff, we will contact you to see who is interested. If there is any questions, I would be glad to take them.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Mr. Anson.

MR. ANSON: Thank you, Doug. I may have missed it, but, when you were talking about some of the issues with payment, and that might be why it came to be how the seat was designated or described, but I just have a little bit of umbrage against the term “private individual”, yet they’re filling a council-reserved spot. Is that part of the reason why or the name came because of the funding issue or -- If that seat is reserved for a council member and the only person that can fill that seat is one from the council, it’s not necessarily a private individual, and I guess that’s what I am just getting a little hung up on.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Okay. I can understand that. I see this as similar to the Fisheries Forum that has been going on. Council members are invited to the forum, because they are council members, but yet your participation in the Fisheries Forum is as a private individual. They pay your travel.
You are not there to represent the council, and so the person
going to these workshops is not there as a council
representative, but they have this opportunity, this unique
opportunity, of not having to go through the vetting process,
because they are a council member.

It’s that same gray area that we’ve had with the Fisheries
Forum, and we have solicited clarification from NOAA Fisheries
in Washington, D.C. about how we’ve participated in that, and
they say that it’s fine. The key word is you are not
representing the council in any way, and, if you’re not
representing the council, then you’re not there as a council
person.

MR. ANSON: I think I understand. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Mr. Swindell.

MR. SWINDELL: Likewise, it would also mean that you’re not then
responsible to the council at all?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY: Correct. You’re not responsible
for giving a report or providing anything back to the council.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Dr. Ponwith.

DR. BONNIE PONWITH: Thanks very much. All confusion about
representation aside, I am really excited to see this come up.
I am excited to see that the opportunity for council members to
participate in this program is being formalized. We are
participants in the program. It’s not our program. We are
participants in the program, in that the Science Center teaches
some of the courses.

The scientists that teach those courses love teaching those
courses, because they really have appreciated the opportunity to
engage with people in the fishing industry, and it’s our hope
that people are walking away from those sessions with a much
more strong and holistic understanding of the science that
underpins the day-to-day decisions that you’re making every time
the council meets, and so I am really happy to see this
happening.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Mr. Walker.

MR. WALKER: Thank you. I attended the science meeting in the
spring and then the management in the fall, and Martha was there
as well, and I just thought it was really good to get the opportunity to explore and speak with people from the Atlantic and the Caribbean management. We had a lot of good conversations, not only during the meeting, but at night. We had dinners, and there was a lot of education and science.

A lot of them that participated in it, when they first started, they were a little concerned about the science. They didn’t quite understand it, but, at the end of the meeting, a lot of people really understood it, and I think they appreciated it more once they saw how the science worked and how the data and how, the better the data, the better the science, and I think Martha was there too, and she witnessed a lot of that as well, but I think it’s a great opportunity for the council to keep participating. Like I said, I started with the science and ended with the management, and I just thought it was of great value.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Ms. Guyas.

MS. MARTHA GUYAS: I’m not on your committee, but, just to follow-up on what David said, I think the networking opportunity of the MREP was really valuable, getting to chat with some of the fishermen and meeting some new people that are trying to get involved in the process.

I think this would be a good thing, especially as new members are coming in, new council members, especially the science part, because they do a really good job of breaking everything down, and so I thought it was very valuable.

CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Sounds good. If anybody has any questions, you all can talk to Martha or David about what all they did there and respond to Mr. Gregory when he sends out the call. Is there any other business to come before this committee? Seeing no other business, we are adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on January 30, 2017.)

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