

1 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2
3 GULF SEDAR COMMITTEE

4
5 Crowne Plaza @Bell Towers Shops Fort Myers, Florida

6
7 June 22, 2022

8
9 **VOTING MEMBERS**

10 Tom Frazer.....Florida
11 Patrick Banks.....Louisiana
12 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
13 Robin Riechers.....Texas

14
15 **NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

16 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
17 Susan Boggs.....Alabama
18 Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
19 Billy Broussard.....Louisiana
20 Rick Burris (designee for Joe Spraggins).....Mississippi
21 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
22 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana
23 Phil Dyskow.....Florida
24 Bob Gill.....Florida
25 LCDR Lisa Motoi.....USCG
26 Bob Shipp.....Alabama
27 Andy Strelcheck.....NMFS
28 Greg Stunz.....Texas
29 C.J. Sweetman.....Florida
30 Troy Williamson.....Texas

31
32 **STAFF**

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

47
48 **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

49 Peter Hood.....NMFS

1 Jessica McCawley.....FL
2 Clay Porch.....SEFSC
3
4 - - -
5

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PAGE 14: Motion that the council draft a letter commensurate with the SEDAR Steering Committee's consensus statement to the NOAA Office of Science and Technology stating the need and urgency of this request. The motion carried on page 16.

- - -

1 The Gulf SEDAR Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
2 Management Council convened at the Crowne Plaza @Bell Towers
3 Shops in Fort Myers, Florida on Wednesday afternoon, June 22,
4 2022, and was called to order by Chairman Dale Diaz.

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

10 **CHAIRMAN DALE DIAZ:** We're going to jump right into the Gulf
11 SEDAR Committee, and the first item on the agenda is the
12 Adoption of the Agenda. Can I get a motion to approve the
13 agenda? I guess maybe I should take the roll, so people know
14 who is on the committee. It's myself, Mr. Banks, Dr. Frazer,
15 and Mr. Riechers. I would like to see if we can get adoption of
16 the agenda, please. We have a motion, and it's seconded. Any
17 opposition to adopting the agenda? The agenda is adopted. Next
18 up is Approval of the Minutes from October of 2021, and is there
19 any edits or additions to the minutes?

20
21 **MR. ROBIN RIECHERS:** Motion to adopt.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** It's moved to adopt by Mr. Riechers, and it's
24 seconded by Mr. Banks. No additions. Is there any opposition?
25 Then the minutes are approved. Thank you. Next up is the
26 Action Guide and Next Steps, and Mr. Rindone is going to walk us
27 through the Action Guide and Next Steps. Mr. Rindone.

28
29 **MR. RYAN RINDONE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We're going to have a
30 summary about the SEDAR Steering Committee's report from its May
31 9, 2022 webinar meeting. The committee should ask questions and
32 provide feedback, particularly about the proposed stock
33 assessments that are requested for 2025 and 2026. At this
34 point, the committee should go ahead and consider 2024 locked-
35 in.

36
37 It should also consider if it wants to support the consensus
38 statement in the SEDAR Steering Committee report, and, if so, it
39 should consider passing a motion to that effect, to request --
40 That the council request the staff draft a letter to the NOAA
41 Office of Science and Technology stating the need and urgency of
42 the request to calibrate the recreational Gulf state surveys
43 prior to the SEDAR 74 operational assessment for Gulf red
44 snapper. Then any tidbits under Other Business that may pop up.
45 Mr. Chair.

46
47 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Thank you, Mr. Rindone. I think you're handling
48 the next agenda item, if you want to go ahead and start with the

1 Summary Report from the May 9, 2022 SEDAR Steering Committee
2 Meeting.

3
4 **SUMMARY REPORT OF MAY 9, 2022 SEDAR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**
5

6 **MR. RINDONE:** I am, and, if there any problems with the
7 presentation, we'll just blame them on Dr. Simmons. Okay, and
8 that won't be too fair, because I think I edited this
9 presentation.

10
11 Just an overview of what's contained herein, we're going to talk
12 about SEDAR's projects report and the process review and
13 discussion for the SEDAR program. We'll talk about the
14 assessment schedule review, particularly the 2025 and 2026
15 assessment years, other business that was discussed by the
16 Steering Committee, and its next steps.

17
18 Particularly, as it relates to the Gulf for the SEDAR projects
19 report, we're talking about the SEDAR 79 assessment of mutton
20 snapper, and Florida FWC had suggested the possibility of
21 increasing the terminal year for the assessment through 2022,
22 but the Science Center's ability to provide the data right now
23 is capped at 2021, and changes in the schedule still need to be
24 discussed by all the cooperators, which right now includes the
25 Gulf and South Atlantic Councils and FWC, and so this is just
26 informational, and this is something that's being worked on.

27
28 Pertaining to the SEDAR process review and the Steering
29 Committee's discussion on that, we talked about the topical
30 working groups, and we got a report on how those have been
31 functioning. The Science Center made it pretty clear that they
32 would prefer as few topical working groups per assessment as
33 possible, and the scheduling of the assessments and their
34 anticipated time to completion is based on no topical working
35 groups, and so, as more topical working groups are added, it
36 increases the amount of time required for a stock assessment.

37
38 The Science Center will inform the cooperators of the cost of
39 adding topical working groups to an assessment whenever they
40 review the statement of work, and that cost being in terms of
41 time. Participants for topical working groups must be appointed
42 by a cooperator, and, in the Gulf, we believe that we have a
43 rather efficient process of being able to do that, and they
44 simply need to be identified, and we can handle that very
45 quickly.

46
47 Concerning the research track technical chair, this was a
48 position that the Science Center thought would be helpful for

1 the research track process, to help keep the process on pace and
2 provide technical feedback and expertise throughout this
3 complicated process. The committee discussed the continued
4 difficulty though in identifying someone to serve as the
5 technical chair for the data and assessment portions of these
6 assessments, and the Science Center has currently -- I think
7 they have found and appointed and are funding the position of
8 technical chair for the SEDAR 74 research track.

9
10 Discussions about this though with the cooperators indicated
11 that the resources were not necessarily going to be available
12 from the cooperators to fund such a position for all research
13 track assessments, and so the resolution was that the SEDAR
14 coordinators would begin chairing the data and assessment
15 portions of these research track assessments, similar to how
16 they have in the past for other assessments.

17
18 Pertaining to the discussion of the role of SEDAR in talking
19 about management procedures and management strategy evaluations,
20 the Steering Committee talked about how the assessment process
21 continues to get increasingly complicated, which the Science
22 Center attributed to increasing numbers of small pieces of data
23 that are provided by many partners, and Matt Smith, with the
24 Science Center, has a great slide that shows the graveyard of
25 past deadlines, and it's probably my favorite stock assessment
26 slide, but it's true.

27
28 In some cases, an effort to herd a hundred cats into a small box
29 is what it's similar to, especially for stocks like red snapper,
30 which are exceptionally data rich, especially when compared to
31 other stocks that we assess.

32
33 The Steering Committee thought that SEDAR should have a role in
34 any new tools, like a new management strategy evaluation, that
35 is going to provide scientific advice in place of a traditional
36 assessment, and the first application of that tool for a stock
37 should go through the SEDAR review process, if it's possible to
38 do that. That's resource and time dependent, et cetera.

39
40 The next step of this is that the Science Center is going to
41 develop a discussion draft for a future SEDAR Steering Committee
42 meeting, to talk about this a little bit further, in terms of
43 the approach.

44
45 Talking about the assessment schedule review here, in 2024 --
46 We're going to go ahead and consider this one locked-down,
47 because of when we've had to submit our scopes of work, and the
48 SSC has already evaluated scopes of work for all of these

1 assessments, and our expectation is to proceed with these at
2 this time, and so we have the operational assessment for red
3 snapper, which could be finishing up in 2024, depending on the
4 amount of time the research track takes, and we anticipate
5 beginning the gray triggerfish research track and getting
6 operational assessments for red grouper, cobia, and vermilion
7 snapper.

8
9 We also anticipate finishing up the mutton snapper benchmark
10 assessment and beginning the West Florida hogfish benchmark
11 assessment, and you see "benchmark" there for the FWC
12 assessments, because FWC, as the analytical lead for those
13 species, preferred sticking with that framework of conducting
14 assessments, as opposed to the research track and operational
15 assessment method.

16
17 For 2025, proposed, we have the continuance of the gray
18 triggerfish research track and starting a research track for
19 greater amberjack, and getting operational assessments for lane
20 snapper, gag, and kingfish, which would be for both Gulf and the
21 South Atlantic, and, typically those migratory groups are
22 assessed concurrently, due to their connectivity in the mixing
23 zone in the wintertime just south of the Keys.

24
25 We would anticipate the hogfish benchmark assessment wrapping up
26 and starting work on a black grouper benchmark assessment, which
27 we had to stop the last time that that was attempted to try to
28 take a closer look at the speciation issues between black
29 grouper and gag, especially in the historical landings.

30
31 For 2026, the greater amberjack research track is wrapping up,
32 and we hope to start the operational assessment for gray
33 triggerfish and do a data triage, in consideration of maybe a
34 management procedures approach for the tilefish complex. We've
35 got another operational assessment for scamp, and we'll
36 hopefully be finishing up that black grouper benchmark
37 assessment with FWC. At this point, I will pause and see if you
38 guys have any feedback on the 2025 and 2026 assessments.

39
40 **MR. RIECHERS:** As we look at gray triggerfish, just because
41 we're coming off of a research track and then moving into a
42 proposed operational track in 2025 to 2026, what is our timing
43 looking like when -- That seems like a difficult back-to-back
44 kind of -- (Part of Mr. Riechers' comment is not audible on the
45 recording.)

46
47 **MR. RINDONE:** It's all contingent on the flow of the research
48 track and the developments that are made there and if there's

1 any additional work that needs to be done, and so it's
2 difficult, at this point, to say exactly when the gray
3 triggerfish research track would end and when the operational
4 assessment would begin.

5
6 The purpose of the research track was to try to provide a little
7 bit more flexibility and be able to explore more nuances and try
8 different things, based on the data available for the stock, and
9 so, if the research track proceeds rather orderly and quickly,
10 then operational assessment presumably would start sooner, and
11 so it would be pending the development of that approach.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** You can proceed, Mr. Rindone.

14
15 **MR. RINDONE:** All right. Well, we'll just go ahead and mark
16 those with green checkmarks. Under Other Business, the SEDAR
17 Steering Committee talked about the Science Center's data
18 improvement project, which is an online data warehouse, like a
19 portal, where all the data that's used in the stock assessments
20 would be made more available to data users, which will start off
21 with those that have the prerequisites necessary to be able to
22 look at and work with confidential data, and then, in the
23 future, once confidentiality issues are handled, the goal is to
24 make those data available to the public.

25
26 There's also the Marine Recreational Information Program catch-
27 weight estimation discrepancy that the Science Center plans to
28 set up a working group to address with the Northeast Fisheries
29 Science Center and to develop a best practices method to handle
30 this issue, and then the Steering Committee also talked about
31 the progress of the MRIP Transition Team and its report from the
32 NOAA Office of Science and Technology from February of 2022,
33 which, at the time, was still being finalized, and that's been
34 distributed now to you guys, via a link that I think Bernie sent
35 out earlier today. A draft of this was provided at the SEDAR 74
36 data workshop for red snapper.

37
38 Then, lastly, the NMFS white paper talking about the process for
39 consideration of the state surveys and inclusion of those into
40 the stock assessment process, and the current plan is to add an
41 addendum to the current version of the NMFS white paper to
42 report everything that has happened so far, as far as the
43 proceedings with the MRIP Transition Team, and a new, updated
44 document was suggested, to avoid confusion, instead of just re-
45 releasing a new version of the old document. Dr. Porch had
46 stated that he would raise this concern about document versions
47 with his colleagues at the Office of Science and Technology.

48

1 The Steering Committee also talked about the status of the SRFS
2 calibration for use in the alternative SEDAR 72 run for gag
3 grouper, and the review of the State Reef Fish Survey data by
4 the consultants was on track and was reviewed, and it was
5 submitted to the Science Center to complete that run for the
6 July 2022 SSC meeting. Everything that I have received so far
7 suggests that that information will be available on time, and
8 the Science Center is completing its work on the rerun of that
9 SEDAR 72 base model, using SRFS in place of FES.

10
11 We have the currency of the recreational data for red snapper,
12 and so the intent is to run the research track for SEDAR 74
13 using MRIP-FES, like we talked about a little bit earlier today,
14 and any estimates for management purposes would be calibrated to
15 the state currency for monitoring purposes. The aim is to
16 complete the Gulf state calibrations though in time for the
17 operational assessment, and, again, that just depends on the
18 progress that's made with the MRIP Transition Team and the
19 states and all the other cooperators.

20
21 To this end, the SEDAR Steering Committee made a consensus
22 statement that the SEDAR Steering Committee requests the NOAA
23 Office of Science and Technology and the Gulf states to work
24 expediently to calibrate and approve the red snapper
25 recreational historical landings time series for use in the
26 SEDAR 74 red snapper operational assessment.

27
28 Next steps, and so you guys have already taken a look at the
29 2025 and 2026 assessment schedule, and, if the council supports
30 the consensus statement from the report, it should consider
31 passing a motion, or drafting a letter to the NOAA Office of
32 Science and Technology, stating the need and urgency of that
33 request. Mr. Chair.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Thank you, Mr. Rindone. Any questions for Mr.
36 Rindone? Mr. Banks.

37
38 **MR. PATRICK BANKS:** Just a question, Ryan, and so the consensus
39 statement, and what you guys are asking us to do, is to ask NOAA
40 to get the calibrations done, which I feel like we've sort of
41 been moving down that road, but they need that updated
42 calibration for the stock assessment run, and is that the gist
43 of it? If they don't do the calibrations, they are forced to do
44 the stock assessment using the old data?

45
46 **MR. RINDONE:** If the calibrations are not updated before the
47 operational assessment, the existing calibrations would be used
48 for informing the projections on the backend of the assessment.

1
2 **MR. RIECHERS:** While Patrick is thinking, and just so remind me
3 again, and two chairs -- It may be three, because it may be the
4 Caribbean as well, but who is on our SEDAR workgroup who
5 suggested this by consensus?
6

7 **MR. RINDONE:** So the Gulf Council's members of the SEDAR
8 Steering Committee are Mr. Diaz and Dr. Simmons, and then Dr.
9 Stunz is there, as the Vice Chair, and then Dr. Froeschke and I
10 also attend all the SEDAR Steering Committee meetings, and, as a
11 cadre, we bounce back and forth ideas and talk about these
12 things, but the seats are Dr. Simmons and Mr. Diaz.
13

14 **MR. RIECHERS:** With our South Atlantic counterparts, and is
15 there representation from National Marine Fisheries Service on
16 that as well?
17

18 **MR. RINDONE:** Yes, and Dr. Porch is the Chair of the SEDAR
19 Steering Committee, and then Mr. Strelcheck is also a member, as
20 the Regional Administrator, and then the Chair and the Executive
21 Director of the South Atlantic and the Caribbean Fishery
22 Management Councils and then the Executive Director of the
23 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Gulf States Marine
24 Fisheries Commission, and so Mr. Donaldson, and the director,
25 the Branch Chief, for the NMFS Atlantic Highly Migratory Species
26 Division.
27

28 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Just to add to the last comment on Ryan's slide,
29 at the data workshop, one of the recommendations at the data
30 workshop was to urge the Office and Science and Technology to
31 also have these calibrations done prior to the operational
32 assessment and ready to go, and so that also came out of the
33 data workshop. Mr. Banks.
34

35 **MR. BANKS:** We already have calibrations, and so the work that
36 they're doing is to update those calibrations that we've already
37 been grappling with in red snapper, and is that correct? I know
38 they're continuing to work through calibration stuff, and, for
39 instance, they presented some different calibrations for Texas,
40 for instance, but we have calibrations already that they have
41 presented to us.
42

43 **MR. RINDONE:** Correct, and those were based on the information
44 that was presented to the SSC back in 2020, and, since then
45 though, the MRIP Transition Team has been working with the Gulf
46 states to evaluate different sets of data and make improvements
47 to the surveys, and any changes in these surveys could result in
48 differences in the calibration ratios.

1
2 I know that Mississippi has explored -- Has hired consultants to
3 evaluate the Tail 'n Scales program and the way in which it
4 estimates landings for that state, and there were some revisions
5 that were made by the State of Florida and the responses to
6 concerns from the consultants, and these states obviously can
7 speak to their own situations, but there's been a continuing
8 evolution of work that has gone on with several of the states
9 with respect to how their data are being treated and how that
10 will ultimately affect their calibration to a global Gulf-wide
11 currency. Mr. Chair, it's probably more appropriate that some
12 of the states speak for themselves on this.

13
14 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Mr. Burris.

15
16 **MR. RICK BURRIS:** Ryan covered it, and we're working with a
17 consultant. I think, through the month of July, we've already
18 procured him, and they're feeding data to him, but we feel like
19 -- When talking to the MRIP Transition Team and the consultants,
20 we feel like, once we clean up some of that, then we'll have a
21 much better calibration, or a calibration ratio that's a little
22 bit more easy to swallow.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Mr. Anson.

25
26 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** I'm not on your committee, but thank you, and,
27 just to further the discussion, I appreciate the concern and the
28 consensus statement that was developed at the SEDAR Committee,
29 but I just want to also add that, back in August of 2021, the
30 council passed a motion to essentially request the NOAA Office
31 of Science and Technology work with the commission and
32 associated state partners to conduct a data workshop to include
33 examination of how wave-specific estimates associated with low
34 sample size and shortened seasons may affect the CHTS and FES
35 recreational red snapper landings and corresponding calibration
36 ratios. Findings from the workshop, including recalculated
37 calibration ratios and associated data inputs shall be reviewed
38 for appropriateness for management use by the SSC prior to
39 calibration implementation, currently scheduled to occur on
40 January 1, 2023. That's that motion, but, again, I appreciate
41 all the context or conversation that's going on.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Okay. Any further comments? Mr. Rindone, do
44 you have anything?

45
46 **MR. RINDONE:** Just to ask whether the council supports that
47 consensus statement and if it is inclined to have a letter
48 drafted to the NOAA Office of Science and Technology to that

1 effect, and so just, I guess, a thumbs-up or thumbs-down.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Mr. Banks.

4
5 **MR. BANKS:** I am trying to understand what this letter is going
6 to -- What it's going to do, especially considering the motion.

7
8 **MR. RINDONE:** The intent of the Steering Committee -- The
9 Steering Committee itself isn't going to draft a letter directly
10 to one of its own -- To, technically, one of its own members,
11 being NOAA Fisheries, and so the intent of the letter is just to
12 express the importance of trying to avoid any sorts of
13 roadblocks, like treat this with the utmost priority, because
14 the operational assessment for red snapper and the data that are
15 used to inform the operational assessment are contingent upon
16 the progress that is made between the states and the MRIP
17 Transition Team, and so, if things are left as they are, then
18 the current ratio that's on the books -- The current ratios that
19 are on the books, that's what will be used from 2020.

20
21 If the process takes longer than that, and its pace runs slower
22 than that of the assessment process, then that's fixed, but, if
23 the process is able to be completed in such a timely fashion
24 that it allows for more incorporation of the state data into the
25 process, then that could be possible, and so it just depends on
26 what the will of the council ultimately is.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Mr. Banks.

29
30 **MR. BANKS:** It just seems like the Office of Science and
31 Technology would know the urgency of the calibration issue, and
32 I don't see how a letter from the council would really do
33 anything. I mean, if they don't see this as a big issue, and
34 they chair the committee -- I mean, that seems to be something
35 that we've got a disconnect there. I mean, I don't know that I
36 necessarily mind writing the letter, but I just wonder why we
37 need to do these kinds of things.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** I think Dr. Porch is the chair of the SEDAR
40 committee, and Science and Technology is a different branch of
41 NOAA, if I understand that correctly.

42
43 **MR. BANKS:** Yes, but it's still NOAA, I guess is where I'm going
44 with that. Again, I don't know that I mind writing the letter,
45 but it just seems like this shouldn't even be an issue here, but
46 anyway.

47
48 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Go ahead, Dr. Simmons.

1
2 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, and so I think what we
3 were trying to put here, having just participated in the red
4 snapper data workshop the previous week, was the operational
5 assessment projections will be in MRIP-FES for red snapper, if
6 this is not completed, and so maybe everyone else already
7 understood that, but the way I understand what this consensus
8 statement is saying is, for exactly what just occurred for gag
9 grouper, with the State Reef Fish Survey, is you have that MRIP-
10 calibrated historical time series, and you have the state time
11 series, and there's some reconciliation with those calibrations,
12 not only for one year, but multiple years back in time.

13
14 Then the consultants are brought in, and they review that back
15 and forth with the various states, and that is finalized and
16 then used for one time series for that particular stock, and so
17 that would have to occur five times, I'm assuming, for red
18 snapper, and that has yet to be done, and so maybe that's
19 crystal clear to everyone else, but that really wasn't crystal
20 clear to us until I went to the red snapper data workshop, and
21 so that was the intent of the motion, and, if you think it's not
22 necessarily, that's fine, too.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Thank you, Dr. Simmons.

25
26 **MR. BANKS:** Well, I guess I just have a question for you, Mr.
27 Chairman. If you feel like this is necessary to reiterate the
28 calibration is important, then I will make a motion to write the
29 letter, but it just seems like --

30
31 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** I think what it would do is it would put the
32 council on the record that we think this is a very high priority
33 and that this work, if at all possible, needs to be completed
34 before the operational assessment. Mr. Riechers.

35
36 **MR. RIECHERS:** When we passed the other motion, and Kevin just
37 said it, did we write a letter then, or was it a motion that we
38 just -- I don't remember.

39
40 **DR. JOHN FROESCHKE:** What was the date of that motion, Kevin?

41
42 **MR. ANSON:** It was from the August 2021 meeting.

43
44 **DR. FROESCHKE:** We'll double-check.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Mr. Banks.

47
48 **MR. BANKS:** Mr. Chair, I will make the motion to write the

1 letter, based on your recommendation, but, if the Full Council
2 votes that down, I would be okay with that, too.
3
4 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Okay.
5
6 **MR. RIECHERS:** I have a provisional amendment, before I second
7 it.
8
9 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Go ahead, Mr. Riechers.
10
11 **MR. RIECHERS:** I would say, if we -- That we support the motion,
12 and we write the letter, but, if we did send a past letter, I
13 think the past letter, and even the motion, should be included,
14 because, if we made a motion like that, it should have been
15 conveyed in some way, and I don't know how it was conveyed, by
16 email, word-of-mouth, letter, but it at least should be
17 recognized that we have passed the previous motion, and so I
18 just add that we either add that letter or recognize that in the
19 letter somehow.
20
21 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Okay. I think we can do that.
22
23 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Mr. Chair, those were letters that
24 we sent. We've sent multiple letters to NOAA S&T, and we can
25 circulate those and make sure they're included in this other
26 letter, if you so choose.
27
28 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Do you still want to go forward with it, being
29 as we did write a letter before, Patrick?
30
31 **MR. BANKS:** Yes, and let's write another letter.
32
33 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Okay, and so we have a motion to go ahead and
34 direct the staff to write a letter.
35
36 **MR. RINDONE:** I would say to draft a letter commensurate with --
37 **To draft a letter commensurate with the SEDAR Steering**
38 **Committee's consensus statement to the NOAA Office of Science**
39 **and Technology stating the need and urgency of this request.**
40
41 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Okay. Mr. Banks, are you okay with that
42 wording? The seconder, Mr. Riechers?
43
44 **MR. RIECHERS:** Yes, and I'm assuming though that the
45 provisional portion is in that motion.
46
47 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Okay, and so we have a motion, and it's
48 seconded. **Is there any opposition to the motion?** Any

1 discussion on the motion? **Any opposition? The motion carries.**
2 Is there any other business to come before the SEDAR Steering
3 Committee? Mr. Gill.

4
5 **OTHER BUSINESS**
6

7 **MR. BOB GILL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not on your
8 committee, and we all know that this SEDAR Committee, Gulf SEDAR
9 Committee, is formulated ex-officio, and so it's populated by
10 chairs of the committees that are named, but one of them happens
11 to be the Red Drum Committee chair, and that may have been
12 applicable and the proper thing to do way back when, but it
13 seems to me that, nowadays, that's not appropriate, and we ought
14 to consider reformulation of the SEDAR Committee to reflect the
15 current state of the council and who the best committees to be
16 represented on the SEDAR Committee, and I recommend that to your
17 attention, Mr. Chairman.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Thank you, Mr. Gill. Ms. Bosarge.

20
21 **MS. LEANN BOSARGE:** (Ms. Bosarge's comment is not audible on the
22 recording.)

23
24 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** No, and, I mean, if there's anybody else that
25 wants to weigh-in on that, and it's something that we would take
26 into consideration and have some further discussion about.

27
28 **MR. BANKS:** I would be supportive of that.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Go ahead, Ms. Bosarge.

31
32 **MS. BOSARGE:** I would be supportive of that. On a different
33 subject, and maybe we can bring it up at Full Council, but you
34 know we've had this discussion a lot from our fishermen lately,
35 or comments a lot from our fishermen lately, about sharks, and
36 so, in all my spare time, I listened in to a couple of the
37 workshops for the hammerhead stock assessment that HMS has
38 ongoing right now.

39
40 I learned a lot, and it was very interesting, and you know me,
41 and I always like to learn about new things, and, you know, I
42 saw that they have a longline survey that they use as an index
43 in that, and it actually -- It's funny, because it actually
44 shows, pretty much, what our fishermen have been saying, that
45 that last data point is somewhat trending up, with some bumps in
46 it, okay, but not like exponentially up, right, but up some, but
47 that last data point was through the roof, right, up there, and
48 I think it had a terminal year of maybe 2017 or 2018 or 2019,

1 somewhere right in there, and so it's a few years old still,
2 but, still, it was high.

3
4 That matches with what we have heard, and, unfortunately, I
5 don't think they're going to use that data point. They had some
6 conversation about it, and I couldn't follow it all. You know,
7 it's not what I do for a living, but that's a migratory species,
8 and so there was some conversation that this data point is just
9 not biologically feasible, and maybe this has to do with some
10 changes in migratory patterns or something, that these sharks
11 are showing up earlier, something like that, but they were
12 caught.

13
14 I mean, these were caught on a longline, and so it's real
15 observations, real data, but so I say this because it was very
16 interesting. There are kind of a limited number of scientists
17 involved in that, and it's not a huge field, it doesn't seem
18 like, and they use a lot of international data to base their
19 assumptions on, which rightfully so, and it's a species that
20 moves around a lot.

21
22 The point I'm making is I really feel like, if we could get
23 things like that in front of a broader audience, and maybe
24 involve more of our fishermen in some of those discussions,
25 where they could give some specific feedback, and our scientists
26 here in the Gulf, that are also out on the water seeing some of
27 these things, maybe we could, you know, improve upon that
28 science somewhat.

29
30 I'm sure that we have some fishermen out there that could tell
31 you some things about some migratory patterns of sharks changing
32 over the years, and maybe what could be driving things like
33 that, and add some more color to some of this data that is being
34 seen and trying to be interpreted and utilized in these
35 assessments.

36
37 In that particular case, I think they're going to remodel the
38 whole time series, to kind of buffer it down, those observations
39 of the sharks, and so I hope that, whenever that assessment is
40 finished on hammerheads, that we will let a presentation be
41 given to our SSC, the way we get presentations on other
42 assessments, and, obviously, it will not be our job to approve
43 that, nor to peer review it, and it would be informational only,
44 but I think it will start the dialogue.

45
46 I think they also have extremely limited recreational data, and
47 imagine that. You think ours is rough, and theirs is worse,
48 okay, and so, you know, we can start to engage some of that

1 conversation as well and see if there's a way to improve upon
2 that, that maybe we have something that's useful to them.

3
4 There was some interest in our tool that we have, where we
5 survey fishermen, but I think they would really have to take it
6 and change it to fit their needs, okay, but, until we keep
7 engaging that conversation, I don't think that will ever happen,
8 and so I really hope we can get that in front of our SSC, when
9 the time comes.

10
11 Obviously, it doesn't have to be right away, and there's nothing
12 time sensitive about it after it comes out, and we don't manage
13 them, but, eventually, I would love to have that presented and
14 continue this dialogue, so that we don't have fishermen that
15 keep coming up here to us and they feel like we never do
16 anything, and we're just in one ear and out the other.

17
18 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** Thank you for that, Ms. Bosarge. Back to Mr.
19 Gill, and, if you have some ideas on how to refigure this
20 committee, Mr. Gill, at Full Council would be a good time to
21 maybe bring that up. I don't want to not address your concerns,
22 or we could talk about it offline and bring it up at a future
23 meeting, and try to figure out if there's some better way to
24 populate that committee. Go ahead, Mr. Gill.

25
26 **MR. GILL:** Just to be clear, this was not intended to impugn Mr.
27 Banks.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN DIAZ:** All right. I am not seeing any other business,
30 and I think there's a function later for Ms. Bosarge. It's the
31 last meeting for Ms. Bosarge, and we're going to have some words
32 for her later. If there's no other business for the SEDAR
33 Committee, we're going to adjourn the SEDAR Committee.

34
35 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on June 22, 2022.)

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