1	GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
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3	SHRIMP COMMITTEE
4	
5	Webinar
6	
7	NOVEMBER 30, 2020
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4	supporting the development, implementation and funding of the P-
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8	explores the associated costs with an expanded number of shrimp
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1 The Shrimp Management Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council convened via webinar on Monday morning, 2 3 November 30, 2020, and was called to order by Chairman Leann 4 Bosarge. 5 б ADOPTION OF AGENDA 7 APPROVAL OF MINUTES 8 ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS 9 10 I would like to call the Shrimp CHAIRMAN LEANN BOSARGE: Management Committee to order. 11 Just to remind everyone, the 12 members of this committee are myself as Chair, Mr. Patrick Banks 13 as Vice Chair, and I believe that Mr. Schieble is sitting in for 14 Patrick today, Mr. Anson, Dr. Crabtree, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, 15 Mr. Riechers, Mr. Sanchez, and Mr. Swindell. 16 17 The agenda can be found under Tab D, Number 1. Were there any 18 changes or additions for today's agenda? I will give everybody 19 Seeing none, the agenda is adopted as presented. just a minute. 20 The minutes from our September 2020 Shrimp Committee meeting can 21 22 be found under Tab D, Number 2. Were there any revisions that 23 needed to be made to those minutes? I don't see any hands going up, and, if there was anybody, feel free to just speak up. 24 Ι 25 don't hear anybody speaking up, and so we will consider those minutes approved as presented in the briefing book. 26 27 28 The Action Guide and Next Steps can be found under Tab D, Number 3, and the main agenda item that will take up most of our time 29 today is going to be a presentation by Dr. Benny Gallaway, and I 30 31 would like to just intro that, since we're waiting to get Dr. 32 Gallaway to a point where he can speak. 33 34 It is pressing. What we have before us is pressing. The shrimp 35 industry has a data collection program that operates on our 36 vessels, and it's called an electronic logbook, but that covers 37 a lot of ground, depending on which industry you're in, and so 38 what our data collection program does on the boats is collect 39 our effort data. In other words, how much time are we spending 40 and nets the water shrimping in in different locations 41 throughout the Gulf of Mexico. 42 43 The reason that we're having this presentation today is because that program is no longer -- That technology, 3G technology, is 44 45 no longer going to be supported as of I think December 7, which is, what, next week, and so it is a pressing item, and the 46 industry has come together to try and come up with a plan to 47 efficient and continue collecting that effort data in an 48

1 streamlined process that hopefully will utilize software and 2 equipment that's already on those vessels, for most of the 3 offshore shrimp fleet. 4 5 We've been working with Dr. Gallaway to get that program up and 6 running, to a proof of concept for NMFS, and we've been working 7 with NMFS on this too, and so, today, Dr. Gallaway is going to 8 present to you all the nuts-and-bolts of that industry-led pilot 9 program, and I would encourage you to ask him any questions you may have, because, ultimately, we're going to need a thumbs-up 10 or thumbs-down, in some fashion, from the council on this 11 12 program, if we want it to become the rule of the land, and so do 13 we have Dr. Gallaway on the phone yet? 14 15 DR. BENNY GALLAWAY: Yes, I hope so. 16 17 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: I can hear you. 18 19 DR. GALLAWAY: If you can put the screen up, I'm ready to roll. 20 21 Great. I think they're pulling your CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Okay. 22 presentation up now, and so, as soon as they get it up, the 23 floor is yours, sir. 24 25 PILOT PROGRAM TO EVALUATE USE OF VESSEL NAVIGATION SYSTEM TO 26 MEASURE SHRIMPING EFFORT 27 This presentation -- I want to start with a 28 DR. GALLAWAY: summary, and so I make sure I get the main information across to 29 you. What I am going to describe is a two-phase project that's 30 31 actually a multiyear two-phase project to adapt the P-Sea 32 WindPlot navigation software, as necessary, to acquire and transmit shrimp fishing effort, much in the same way it has been 33 34 done. 35 36 The first phase has been to determine how many federally-37 permitted vessels use P-Sea WindPlot, test the approach on one 38 or more general vessels, develop procedures to match landings 39 trip data and, ultimately, to develop a for and system 40 electronically transmitting the data to NMFS databases in a 41 seamless fashion. 42 43 The goal of the second phase will be to actually implement the new method, in order to estimate shrimp fishing effort for next 44 45 year, beginning in the first quarter. The initial work -- This has been an emerging and evolving and fast-moving project, and 46 the initial work has just been modified to include efforts to 47 acquire 3G cELB data that are still being recorded. 48

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2 The pilot program began with discussions in August of 2020 3 Fisheries and the Southern Shrimp between NOAA Alliance regarding the looming failure of the current system at the end 4 5 of the year. The agency had been evaluating options for б replacing the cELB program and had reached out to industry to find a cooperative solution. 7 8 9 Mr. Steve Bosarge, who is President of SSA, brought forth the idea that an almost universal navigation system used by the Gulf 10 shrimp fishery, and that's P-Sea WindPlot, has an internal 11 12 logbook that perhaps could be modified to enable recording of 13 the date, time, and location data necessary to estimate effort 14 with very little change. 15 16 His idea led to the Phase 1 of the pilot program, and the main 17 objectives were, one, to evaluate the likelihood that indeed the 18 P-Sea WindPlot program is used by a large fraction of the 19 permitted fleet, and this is true, to modify and test the 20 existing software to obtain and record directly the information 21 for estimating effort and how to most effectively pair effort 22 and landings data at the trip level. 23 involve implementing the system 24 Testing will on one more actively fishing vessel with a cELB, and that has been equipped 25 and will be leaving the dock on Monday. Working with NMFS, we 26 will also assist in physically collecting the 3G ELB data still 27 28 being recorded, and that becomes critical, that we need to get 29 that done. We may lose that, if we don't act fast. 30 31 Then we want to develop or confirm that the present stratified 32 random vessel selection process remains appropriate and develop 33 comprehensive procedures manuals for integrating the historical 34 and new estimation procedures. In other words, we want to tie 35 it all together. 36 37 The last steps of the Phase 1 pilot study will be to, working 38 with NMFS, randomly select a yet-to-be-decided number of vessels 39 to utilize P-Sea WindPlot for monitoring effort in 2021, and, lastly, develop a plan to install and equip these vessels with 40 41 new P-Sea WindPlot systems and train the captains and dealers in 42 its use in the first quarter, and this is critical. 43 At present, we plan to obtain the data that's downloaded from a 44 45 trip on thumb-drives, along with, at the time of landing, the matched landing record, likely on paper. However, we will begin 46 development of an electronic reporting system in the pilot study 47 and finalize it during the coming year of 2021. 48 We provided a

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1 background on all of this in Attachments 4(a) and 4(b) and Attachment 1 of this document, which I won't try to go into now, 2 3 but you're welcome to review that. 4 So, where are we? 5 Without consideration of whether a permitted 6 vessel is actively fishing or simply holding a permit, there were a total of 1,392 total permits on August 17, 2020, of which 7 8 1,283 were valid and another 109 were eligible to be renewed or 9 transferred, and this information was obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, and we noticed that the address of 10 the owner is by state, and it doesn't necessarily correspond to 11 12 where the vessel is. There are 1,255 Coast-Guard-registered 13 in this database, along with 135 state-registered vessels 14 vessels. 15 16 One of the things we want is to use active vessels with a cELB 17 history, because, when you switch to a new method of estimating 18 fishing effort, this requires careful planning, to ensure that 19 any changes observed are real and not due to a change in method. 20 Therefore, in the first year, the pool of vessels to be considered will be actively fishing permitted vessels with a 21 22 cELB history and known ports of landing. 23 24 The SSA members within this pool have been contacted, but they 25 were only contacted to determine if the vessel used P-Sea WindPlot, and we have up-to-date contact information and could 26 27 get in touch with them quickly, to give us a preliminary idea of 28 whether or not we were whistling dixie or had a path forward. 29 30 P-Sea WindPlot The evidence that is commonly, or even 31 universally, used is pretty convincing. NMFS provided us with a 32 list of the permitted vessels, which have actively fished in the past few years, had carried a cELB, and had known ports of 33 34 John Williams of SSA provided us the up-to-date landings. 35 The pool that we'll be using for the random contact numbers. 36 selection is 577 actively-fishing vessels, and, of these, 37 ninety-four were SSA members. 38 39 100 percent of the SSA component used P-Sea WindPlot, and 40 informed discussions with shrimp fishers across the Gulf 41 reinforced the idea that this software is dominant, if not even 42 universally used. In chatting with the developers of the 43 software, they have literally sold thousands of P-Sea software units in the Gulf of Mexico, and so we're pretty convinced that 44 45 this is a viable vehicle. 46 In getting started, the first thing we did was set up -- We have 47 stand-alone server, including 48 programmed a the necessary

1 software and several dozen custom scrips to run the ELB project, 2 and, just like we have done historically, we could read the trip 3 data, and we could estimate effort. We have tested the programs 4 and validated that we're ready to go. As a starting point, our 5 server is set up to run the existing ELB program. In other 6 words, we're not making a big change in the kinds of data, but 7 we're simply using a different gadget to transmit the data.

9 One of the initial thoughts was maybe we could just use it 10 directly, and P-Sea WindPlot has track files, and maybe we could 11 just convert them to what we need, and the track files were 12 determined to contain a lot of useful information regarding 13 locations of tows. The tracking feature, however, does not 14 operate continuously, and is designed to be easily turned on and off, and, based on this, we judged the data currently recorded 15 by P-Sea WindPlot to be insufficient for use as an alternative, 16 17 to just it directly. It takes a modification. We need a 18 continuous record of date, time, and location and assurity of 19 location every ten minutes. In response, we the beqan 20 discussions with P-Sea WindPlot to modify the programs, to where 21 we could gather that information.

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23 We contracted with them to modify their program to capture everything we need, just like we've been getting it, every ten 24 25 minutes, but it would fall right into the existing program. 26 Upon the P-Sea WindPlot starting, the modified program will 27 produce -- It gathers this information that we've been defining 28 every ten minutes, and I am going to skip through some of these, 29 and you can come back and ask questions, if you have them. 30 Initially, when we retrieve these data on landings, we will copy 31 it to a USB flash drive and get a paper copy of the 32 corresponding landings trip. 33

- We have also acquired the landings forms from each of the five states, as well as the manual, and we're going to develop a system whereby, when we come in and we get the thumb-drive, we can convert these to spreadsheet data, and then we can reformat the data so that it's compatible with NMFS landings data, and, ultimately, it will be transmitted in a way that I think everyone will find accessible.
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42 Now our pool, and the 577 actively fishing permitting vessels 43 that we described above, that will be our universe. We will 44 stratify these vessels by port, organized into nine geographical 45 regions, and that is landings by port. Then, within ports, 46 we'll stratify vessels, and this is a description of the regions 47 in question, and this is the same as it has been, and there's 48 been some modification of the port descriptions, but that's all

1 been brought up today.

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3 Working with NMFS, we want to stratify these ports by total 4 landings, and vessels within these ports, again, will be 5 stratified by landings, and the degree of their participation in 6 the cELB program as well, and the number of selections will be 7 proportional to the weight of each respective strata. 8

9 Once selected, the vessels would be contacted that they have 10 been selected, and it will be determined if the vessel uses P-11 Sea WindPlot. If not, an alternate selection will be made. The 12 selection procedure will be conducted in cooperation with NMFS. 13 This is -- We're having to work fast and hard and furious, and 14 some of the normal formal protocols need to be laid aside, and 15 we need to work together as a team and get the problem solved, 16 if we're going to be successful.

18 Where we're headed now, the modifications to the P-Sea WindPlot 19 are being tested, and the software is complete, and we've 20 actually installed one, and the vessel will be going out. We'll 21 be installing others next week, and we need to -- Once these 22 have proven successful this month, that they are working, that 23 downloading the information we need, they are and it's compatible with what we've been getting, in exactly the same 24 25 format, using exactly the same updated users manual, we need to begin the random selection of boats for measuring effort in 26 27 2021, and we also need to jump right on getting the 3G data that have been downloaded, but have not been acquired, and we stand a 28 29 good chance of losing that if we don't get on that quickly.

31 During the upcoming quarter, our plans are -- My entire crew is 32 in the office today, and we're here, and we'll be visiting the boats and helping the captains install the software, and we'll 33 34 make arrangements to retrieve any available 3G data, and then we'll expand our efforts in April, so that we basically have a 35 36 full complement going this year. We are proposing that we run 37 the program for two full years, working out all the details, 38 before we pass of a turn-key program to NMFS.

39 40 Then the costs for this initial proposed program, for the labor, 41 are not an ongoing cost, but rather we think that, when we 42 complete this, the ongoing study should require an annual 43 operating budget sufficient to support about two full-time 44 equivalent scientific staff. 45

46 Here is our budget. The first quarter, what we've done so far, 47 has cost about \$327,000. As we go forward with the 48 modifications, for the next couple of years, it's going to cost

1 roughly a million bucks, and I have a breakout of the costs, if The main thing here is get the program 2 you want to see it. 3 going and avoid as many technical barriers to success for the 4 completion. We're in trouble, and we need to get this done. 5 6 I was also asked to answer some questions that the council staff 7 was interested in, and I will try to do that right now. The 8 first question was will the revised P-Sea WindPlot software be 9 compatible with all operating systems versions that the vessel may be currently using. A Shrimp AP member noted that some 10 11 vessels have very old operating systems. 12 13 To date, 100 percent of the ninety-four federally-permitted 14 vessels that we've contacted use P-Sea WindPlot, and we believe 15 there is good evidence to show that it's the dominant system 16 used in the offshore fleet, but we doubt that it is universal, although we have noted that it is entirely compatible with a 17 18 wide range of the operating software, from the very old to the 19 It's a flexible -- It's what we need. very new. 20 21 Question 2 is will the software be considered an upgrade that 22 vessel operators will need to pay for, or will it be a free 23 We have paid for it through the SSA funding. update? The upgrade has been paid for and will be provided as a free update, 24 25 and nobody has to pay. 26 27 Question 3 is, from the AP presentation, it appears that only ninety-four vessels were used in the pilot study, and it goes on 28 29 and goes on, and I would just like to cut that short. The ninety-four vessels do not constitute the pilot study fleet. 30 31 These were only used to estimate the likelihood that P-Sea 32 WindPlot was widespread in the fleet. We had good contact information, and we could contact them in a matter of hours or 33 34 days, and not weeks or months, and so the pilot study will be 35 randomly selected, using the existing protocols from the 577 36 permitted vessels that we defined above. 37 38 Question 4 is the sixty-six of the ninety-four vessels were 39 located in Texas, and that's of the SSA and so forth and so on, 40 and I would like to just skip to the answer. These vessels were 41 not intended to be a representative sub-sample of the fleet. These vessels had known contact information, enabling us to move 42 43 forward in a timely fashion, and we had to move forward to draw the representative sample from the 577 vessels. 44 45 46 What will the revisions that the software developer is working on with Dr. Gallaway address? Well, they address the issue of 47 determining tow time versus transit. This program -- The beauty 48

1 of this program is it will provide exactly the same information 2 as both of the historical ELB and cELB systems. 3 At the end of the program, the data, and hopefully the paired 4 5 landings data, will be provided directly to a secure NMFS б server, and we're giving ourselves one to two years to get that done, where it should -- The data should come in, and a couple 7 of staff members should be providing it to the NMFS server, and 8 9 there should be no interruption in service, once we get it 10 qoing. 11 12 How do you see the effort data collected from the shrimp vessels 13 being shared with the Science Center in the short term for the 14 pilot study and the long term, when the modified program is 15 handed over to the Science Center? 16 We plan on handing over the effort data, in both the short term 17 18 and long term, directly to the Science Center without any 19 complications about who owns what. The revised P-Sea WindPlot 20 software will also be transferred to NMFS, and so we envision a direct working relationship between the industry and NMFS, led 21 22 by the Southern Shrimp Alliance and NMFS, and our role would be 23 relationship between to facilitate the the professional 24 organizations and the agency and the on-the-ground fishermen. 25 26 That slide now goes into all the background stuff that you might 27 want to know about, but you might now, but it's back there if you want to peruse it at your interest, and I tried to go fast, 28 29 Leann. If I haven't covered it all, please feel free to ask a 30 question. 31 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: I think you did very well, considering the 32 Thank you, Dr. Gallaway. I would like to open 33 time we have. 34 the floor now to council members or staff or others that may 35 have questions about Dr. Gallaway's presentation, or comments. 36 I see a couple of hands up. Mr. Sanchez. 37 38 MR. JOHN SANCHEZ: Thank you, Leann. I just wanted to thank Dr. 39 Gallaway for a quick and detailed presentation, and, in my 40 opinion, it sounds like a really viable solution to an expiring 41 cellular logbook program and the technology, and I'm very 42 pleased to hear that so much work has been done on this. Thank 43 you. 44 DR. GALLAWAY: 45 Thank you. 46 47 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Okay. Next, I have Dr. Clay Porch. 48

1 DR. CLAY PORCH: Thank you, Benny, for that presentation, and I 2 think that was really helpful. I just wanted to clarify a couple of points. First, I think, for Phase 1, you're talking 3 about collecting the 3G data manually, or assisting us with that 4 5 collection, and, two, you would collect the P-Sea WindPlot data 6 manually. Along with that, you're asking the P-Sea WindPlot folks to modify the existing tracking software to output vessel 7 8 tracking information in a way that we can use it calculate 9 effort. 10 11 DR. GALLAWAY: That is exactly right. 12 Okay, and then the last thing is you would be 13 DR. PORCH: 14 developing the software for estimating effort from that P-Sea 15 WindPlot output, right? 16 17 DR. GALLAWAY: Yes, and that's pretty much done, because we 18 don't need the cELB modifications, and we go back to the string 19 of consistent data, and so those manuals are -- That server is 20 actually set up. We've got that software and those developments 21 already done, and we're -- That's the only place, but we're 22 ahead of the game there. 23 So then, for Phase 2, the main thing is that you 24 DR. PORCH: 25 would be developing a system to transmit that information 26 securely and directly to a NMFS server. 27 28 DR. GALLAWAY: That is correct, plus making sure that the people who are acquiring the -- The captains and the dealers are all on 29 the same page and know what they're doing. 30 Where these things 31 fall down usually is people start quessing about what they 32 should be doing and make wrong guesses, and we're going to try to train the fleet to where it's as professionally done as 33 34 humanly possible. 35 36 DR. PORCH: Okay. Thank you. 37 38 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: All right. Next, we have Dr. Crabtree. 39 40 DR. ROY CRABTREE: This is promising, and it does seem, to me, 41 that, one, we're going to need to secure funding to get this done, and, right now, that's hard to say, because, at the 42 43 moment, we have funding through December 11, and then it's unclear what will happen at that point. 44 45 46 Then it does seem to me that we would need to work on an amendment of some sort, which would require that you have to 47 have the software aboard the vessel, so that, if you're selected 48

to participate in the program, you can actually do that. Now, it sounds like a high percentage of the fleet is already having this, and so that wouldn't be that much of a burden, but how you go about what vessels would be selected, which I guess the Center and Dr. Gallaway would work out how that protocol works, but I think you would need an amendment to require that the permitted vessels have this software onboard.

9 DR. GALLAWAY: That's outside the range of what I would be 10 answering, but my comment is let's see to what extent that is a 11 problem, before we start addressing the solution, and let's get 12 out and -- Let's do the work and find out where we need to go 13 from there.

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15 **DR. CRABTREE:** Well, I would caution you about the amount of 16 time it takes to get through an amendment, and it can be 17 considerable. 18

19 Roy, I agree that, if we need an amendment, CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: we do want to get started on that, sooner rather than later, and 20 21 I think the first step to determining if we need an amendment or 22 not is to actually have the codified text that's in the rulebook 23 presented to the council for us to review and have an educated 24 discussion as to how the regulations are written currently and 25 where we need to go from there. I would encourage staff to bring us that back, sooner rather than later, so that we begin 26 27 that discussion and really see where we need to land on that. 28 Mr. Anson, I have you next.

30 MR. KEVIN ANSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, those were a 31 couple of questions that I had, was the funding and were the 32 agency was in that, looking down the road. Then the idea of some sort of amendment, and that's what my comment was going to 33 34 be, is it takes us time to get through that, and so it wouldn't 35 hurt to try to do some of the groundwork in advance, and your 36 point that you just made is a very good idea, and I would agree. 37

38 Dr. Gallaway, on Slide 12, you mentioned matching effort with 39 landings, and you mentioned that you had trip ticket examples 40 from all of the Gulf states but Alabama, and so I'm just 41 wondering -- Did we just -- You asked us, and we didn't provide, 42 or did you not ask, and I don't think it would be an issue, if 43 it's not too late.

45 **DR. GALLAWAY:** No, I wouldn't say that at all. It's just been 46 hectic, and we've just been moving on several different fronts 47 simultaneously, but I'm sure there's no problem. If there is, I 48 know who to call.

2 MR. ANSON: All right. Sounds good. Thank you. 3 4 Mr. Anson, I actually tried to find some of CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: 5 those for Dr. Gallaway, and I couldn't find a -- I looked on б your website, and I was trying to find just like a blank one to 7 send to him, a template, but I didn't see one, and so, if you could send that to him, that would be greatly appreciated, or 8 9 send it to me, and I will send it on to him. Next, I have Mr. 10 Diaz. 11 12 MR. DALE DIAZ: Thank you, Ms. Bosarge. I agree with Dr. 13 I do think what Dr. Gallaway has presented is very Crabtree. 14 promising, and I do want to commend the industry for stepping I mean, there is a great need, and we find ourselves here, 15 up. 16 kind of at the last hour, trying to put something together, and 17 I do want to commend the industry for stepping up. 18 19 We talked a little bit about funding, and that's my concern, but 20 I quess I'm concerned on a couple of levels with funding. Ιt looks like the industry has already put up over \$300,000 to get 21 22 this thing kicked off, and, from Dr. Gallaway's presentation, 23 there is a question-mark on how it's going to be funded in the 24 future, and I believe that question-mark has behind it a 25 question-mark of industry and NOAA, maybe at some split level. 26 27 I quess my question would be for Dr. Porch. Is there any 28 funding to help support this effort in the next couple of years, 29 Dr. Porch? Then I have a follow-up. 30 31 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Dr. Porch. 32 33 DR. PORCH: Sure. Thank you. There is two issues with regard 34 to funding, especially if we were going to go forward with LGL. 35 I'm not completely sure we can justify a sole-source One, 36 contract, and we would have to bid it out, but, two, at that 37 level of funding, we don't have any funds to support that. That 38 would be pretty much unprecedented for this fishery, and we've 39 never had base funds for that sort of thing, and so we would need some new funding to come into the system. 40 41 Along those lines, one thing I would like to mention is -- I 42 43 think it was Mr. Anson that mentioned the potential delay in this, and we could continue to use the 3G systems. They just 44 45 can't transmit. That's what ends on December 7, but the units will still collect information, and so, as Benny mentioned, we 46 47 can download that information directly. 48

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1 We still actually have a lot of units in storage, and so, if 2 some folks are -- If some of their units are breaking down, we 3 can actually replace them. It's an added expense, because now 4 we have to manually go download all the information, which we 5 could either do with port agents, which is expensive, or maybe 6 we can work out some system where someone can download the 7 information on thumb-drives and send it to us.

9 There's a lot of details that need to be worked out there, but 10 the point is we can still continue to use the 3G system while 11 the new system is being developed, but, in answer directly to 12 the question, no, we don't have funds to cover a million dollars 13 a year for this fishery.

- 14 I would strongly, I guess, ask, request, that you all 15 MR. DIAZ: 16 do whatever you can to seek out some funding, to see if there's 17 a way to support this program. I think it's a good program, 18 from the way it's been described, and I'm excited that the 19 industry is behind it, and I would encourage you and your staff 20 to work as closely as possible with the industry and Dr. Gallaway and try to look for any problems that, at this point, 21 22 that could be a deal-killer, because I have a fear that a lot of 23 money is going to be spent and then something comes up to be a 24 deal-killer way down the road that might could have been 25 addressed upfront, and I don't know that that's going to happen, but that's just in the back of my mind, and so I would ask that 26 27 you all please try to work as closely as possible and look at this thing as closely as possible, to make sure that no money is 28 29 wasted here, if possible. Thank you, Dr. Porch. 30
- 31 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Thank you, Mr. Diaz, and I would agree. Ι 32 hope we get to those types of issues later in this conversation, but, you know, as far as the cost goes, the old program that we 33 34 used to have was on the order of the same cost that we're 35 looking at now, which is remarkable, because that was quite some 36 years ago, and I am pulling these costs straight from the 37 amendment that we had, the framework action to establish funding 38 responsibilities for that program.
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- 40 I am looking in December of 2018, just for nine months of the 41 old cELB program, and it was \$800,000 for nine months, and so, 42 if you carry that out three more months, that's pretty close to 43 what the cost is here, and we funded that program.
- 45 NMFS funded that program, for many, many years, and this was 46 under Dr. Ponwith's time, as the director, and she, at some 47 point, decided that we were going to switch to the cellular 48 electronic logbook program, and so that million dollars that had

been being spent to have it run through LGL -- She was going to 1 bring that money in-house and hire some personnel and buy the 2 3 equipment and run that program there, and so where did the million dollars a year go, I guess, that we don't have it now? 4 5 6 I'm sure nobody can answer that readily, but I just kind of 7 wanted to make the point that we have funded this in the past, 8 and at levels comparable to these, and that money seems to be evaporating into other areas, I guess, and we need to make this 9 a priority and try and find the funds, and I understand that 10 probably can't come from NMFS and that industry is going to have 11 12 to work hard to try and push the right buttons and get that 13 money through, but I hope that that will be a joint effort and 14 we can make that happen. Next, I have Mr. Sanchez. 15 16 MR. SANCHEZ: Madam Chair, my hand must have still been up. 17 18 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Okay. No problem. Next, I have Mr. 19 Schieble. 20 21 Thank you, Madam Chair. Both yourself and MR. CHRIS SCHIEBLE: 22 Dr. Porch answered my primary question. My main question was 23 the timing of this and what is the current funding source for this, and where is it going, and why is there trouble finding a 24 25 similar amount of funding for a new program. Dr. Porch answered 26 my other question. 27 28 I guess my only other comment is a portion of Louisiana's 29 offshore fleet may have some, I guess, need for a time or a 30 buffer or some sort of period of instituting the new technology. 31 I think a lot of it is antiquated in the fleet right now, and 32 we'll need a little bit of leeway or buffer period to get this implemented in most of the fleet, and so it would be good if 33 something similar to what we're doing with SEFHIER, when we know 34 35 when the implementation date will be and how long -- If we could 36 have a time period of transition over, and that's my only other 37 comment. Thank you. 38 39 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Thank you, sir. I appreciate those comments. I don't see any other hands up, and I think I would like to turn 40 41 it over to Dr. Freeman to kind of get us on track and get us pointed in the right direction for where we need to land on 42 43 this, but, first, I see Dr. Porch's hand up, and let's go to him 44 first. 45 46 Thank you. I am not quite sure where the million DR. PORCH: I mean, we had -- That's probably closer to 47 dollars came up. shrimp program, 48 the entire cost of the including stock

1 assessments and everything else, and, in the case, basically things are more expensive now than they used to be, and we've 2 3 been flat funded, and so, just like many people can relate to 4 that, it basically means that you're going to end up decreasing 5 services, and so, in other words, when somebody -- Every time we б get a raise and no one pays for it, that's a few positions that 7 we can't hire, and so that program, like everything else now, 8 has fewer people supporting it, but I don't recall ever looking at the books where there is a million dollars going just to the 9 10 shrimp effort estimation.

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Now, there were some reimbursements, through various programs, for the price of the 3G units that we had, and, in fact, we still have some in stock, and maybe she was counting -- If Bonnie gave you those numbers, maybe she is counting the cost of paying for those 3G units.

18 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Thanks, Clay. Dr. Freeman, do 19 you want to get us pointed in the right direction and tell us 20 what you need from this committee, please?

22 **DR. MATT FREEMAN:** I can do that. Ms. Bosarge, would you like 23 for me to discuss the Shrimp AP motions as well at this point?

25 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Yes, sir.

27 **DR. FREEMAN:** Okay. Dr. Gallaway gave a similar presentation to 28 the Shrimp AP at their November webinar meeting, and, following 29 an AP discussion and questions for Dr. Gallaway on his 30 presentation, they gave a lengthy motion, but a detailed one. 31

32 The Shrimp AP requests the council to request NMFS to fully implement and fund a new shrimp effort data collection system, 33 otherwise known as electronic logbooks, in the Gulf of Mexico 34 35 beginning in 2021, based on the methods and the results of the 36 pilot program using P-Sea WindPlot technology conducted by Dr. 37 Such a system must collect and analyze effort data Gallaway. 38 that is sufficient to evaluate compliance with the shrimp 39 fishing effort cap for sea turtles as well as compliance with the applicable shrimp fishing effort reduction threshold for 40 41 addressing juvenile red snapper bycatch. Such effort data must also be sufficient to evaluate federal and state marine spatial 42 43 management proposals in the Gulf, in order to minimize their impacts on the shrimp fishery, including, but not limited to, 44 45 protection areas, artificial reef sites, coral and NOAA aquaculture opportunity areas and aquaculture facility sites. 46 The collect and analysis of this effort data should be, where 47 feasible, integrated with the agency's collection and analysis 48

1 of shrimp catch data. Such a system should be limited to collecting effort data and not be expanded to require shrimp 2 fishermen to submit landings data, economic data, or gear 3 information, as these data are already collected in a timely and 4 5 efficient manner by means other than electronic logbooks, and so 6 them into the new electronic logbook system for placing 7 collecting shrimp effort data would place unnecessary burden on 8 the fishermen. That motion carried unanimously. 9

10 At this point, if the committee could direct staff if there are 11 additional items related to the effort reporting program that 12 the committee would like explored, and we can do that, and, 13 again, just if the committee can specify what those requests 14 are.

16 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Okay. The short and sweet of the motion, because I think I might have been the only council member that 17 18 attended that AP meeting, and I think Dr. Frazer listened in 19 some too, but it was that the industry and the AP was very 20 supportive of using the P-Sea WindPlot program, which is our 21 computer plotter program we have on the boats, to collect the 22 same effort data that the old cellular electronic logbook device used to collect. 23

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25 They wanted to see that moved forward and collect pretty much the same data that we've always collected, and that is to say 26 27 they weren't supportive of some of the options that were presented to the council at the last meeting, where we were 28 29 going to expand this program to include collecting gear 30 information and tow-level data and all these sorts of things, 31 and they wanted to see our programs continue as it is currently, 32 with a few minor tweaks, if necessary, just through a different 33 device, through the P-Sea WindPlot program.

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Now, I won't say that they were totally opposed to having some of that information collected at some point in the future, and there was some discussion about some of that, but, right now, they wanted to focus on the pressing issue that's in front of us and just keep that going.

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41 **DR. FREEMAN:** Ms. Bosarge, if I can add to that, and that's a 42 very nice segue, and so, as you mentioned, Dr. Gloeckner gave an 43 abbreviated presentation to the AP, similar to what was 44 presented to the council in September, on potential expanded 45 reporting options, and if I can read that motion. 46

47 As Ms. Bosarge mentioned, the AP made a motion to recommend that 48 the council select an option of status quo, so as not to be

1 burdensome to the industry, where the reporting aligns with the reporting requirements, 2 current and that motion carried unanimously, and so, again, as Ms. Bosarge mentioned, they were, 3 4 in essence, looking at maintaining the current reporting for 5 effort and not expanding the report at this point. 6 Thank you, Dr. Freeman. 7 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Was there anything else in that AP report that you wanted to take us through before 8 9 we continue this data collection portion of this conversation? 10 11 DR. FREEMAN: I believe those were the two relevant motions for 12 Dr. Gallaway's presentation, and I believe the remainder can 13 come up later, when I specifically go through the meeting 14 summaries. 15 16 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Okay. I had a question for Dr. Porch. At 17 our last council meeting, we had a discussion on a lot of 18 carryover funds that we're going to have, due to the fact that 19 our meetings have been held virtually and we haven't been able 20 to have all the AP meetings that we normally have. 21 22 We have a lot of excess funding that we're going to try and 23 carry over and utilize, and I would imagine that NMFS is in that same position, and I don't know to what degree, but I would 24 25 think you would have some extra travel funds, and you probably have some extra money from your white ships that do the surveys, 26 27 SEAMAP and such, when they couldn't get out there, and is there 28 any possibility to use some of this excess funding, as a result of COVID, towards funding this, come January? 29 30 31 DR. PORCH: The Southeast Fisheries Science Center no longer has 32 any carryover that's available. That was -- Some fraction of 33 the carryover that we did have that wasn't already obligated for 34 other activities has actually gone into the National Marine 35 Fisheries Service pool and has been redistributed to other 36 priority activities. 37 38 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: All right. That's sad to hear, because, you 39 know, when we implemented the cellular electronic loqbook program, if you read the document, the council document, about 40 41 the funding for that, at that point, the council wrote a letter,

42 in 2012, requesting that some of this BP money, this RESTORE Act
43 money and NRDA money, actually be used to fund this electronic
44 logbook program for the shrimp industry.

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46 It's very disheartening that we always seem to take a backseat 47 to everything else, and there's all this money out there, and we 48 started asking for it almost a decade ago, and, yet, none of it

1 has been allocated to the things that we really need as an 2 industry. Mr. Sanchez, go ahead. 3 4 MR. SANCHEZ: I appreciate the acknowledgement, but I don't know 5 why. My hand is, I think, down, and so I have nothing further. б All right. I am going to pose the question, 7 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: I guess, to Dr. Porch, and I think Dr. Gloeckner is listening in 8 9 as well. Dale mentioned possible headwinds, and I would like to hear from you. Are there any headwinds that we need to start 10 11 working on now, so that this program could possibly become a 12 reality? 13 14 I guess I'm not quite sure what you mean in terms of DR. PORCH: 15 headwinds. 16 17 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: The one headwind that I think I have heard 18 rumblings of is the manner in which the data is submitted to you 19 For this project to become a reality and be implemented as all. 20 our new logbook program, is email good enough? Is a thumb-drive 21 good enough? How exactly do you have to have the data in hand? 22 23 It used to be collected by port agents, and we used to actually have men on the ground that came and got this data off the boat, 24 25 and then Dr. Ponwith changed that and put it under this cellular 26 program, where the data gets uploaded through a cellphone signal 27 and goes to NMFS. 28 29 Well, the problem with that is that the technology changes so fast that the devices can't keep up with it, and so that seems 30 31 like a no-go, and so how are you going to need to receive this 32 data for this to become a reality? 33 34 Well, we can handle it by getting on thumb-drives, DR. PORCH: or potentially people mailing in chips, and I don't know that we 35 36 could do it by email, and we can look into that, but, ideally, 37 be transmitted to it would us through а secure site 38 electronically, which is what would be in Phase 2 of Dr. 39 Gallaway's proposal. 40 41 We could possibly have it submitted through an API, and maybe that's the easiest way to go forward, and so I think there is 42 43 ways that we can do it, but it just requires somebody to download the information off of the machine and go ahead and 44 45 send it to us, and so it requires a little bit of labor on the fishermen's part, or somebody, and so, basically, through a 46 47 website, a secure website. 48

I think it's doable, and it's more labor intensive for us, and so we'll have to find a way to do it, and it will slow down the process, given our current budget, because we're not in the position to hire a lot more people to process the information, but it could conceivably be done.

7 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Okay. Well, that's good to hear, and so it 8 sounds like, if we have to use thumb-drives for a little while, 9 and mail those into you, that we could get by with that for a 10 while, until we can get something better and more efficient in 11 place. I have Dr. Simmons' hand up and then Mr. Diaz.

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13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ι 14 had a question, and I believe it's for the Science Center or 15 Regional Office, and then also for Ms. Levy. Based on my 16 understanding of the current ELBs, there is essentially hardware 17 still that's associated with that that's on the vessels that 18 could be maintained, and then, eventually, that information 19 could be collected on the vessels, and then, eventually, someone 20 could obtain that data, that effort data, off of there. 21

Have the permit holders that are participating in that program been notified that they should maintain that hardware on their vessels, and, if that is indeed, I guess, the will of the council and NMFS, would we need to make any changes to the regulations based on that?

28 DR. PORCH: I can answer that. We're about to send a letter 29 notifying all the selected permit holders that they need to keep 30 turning the machine on, so that it collects the information. 31

32 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Carrie, that machine that we have on the 33 boat, it really is something that operates in the background, 34 and we don't mess with it, and we don't really have to do 35 anything with it, and so I would imagine they will just keep 36 collecting data, just like they always have, and the fishermen 37 won't really touch it.

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39 Then, hopefully, through Dr. Gallaway's program, as he 40 mentioned, as he's going out to some of these boats, he can 41 start collecting some of that information for us and getting 42 that back to the Science Center.

44 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you.

46 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: All right. Then I have Dale Diaz.

48 MR. DIAZ: I sent a motion to staff about writing a letter, and

1 if staff could pull that motion up on the board. I know we're 2 running short on time, and I am just trying to get something out of this committee that shows some support for the pilot program, 3 and I am -- If somebody has some other wording they would like 4 5 to add to this, I would be willing to accept some amendments. Ι 6 am going to ask you to modify my motion just a little bit. 7 My motion would be for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management 8 Council to send a letter to the Southeast Fisheries Science 9 Center supporting the development, implementation, and funding 10 11 of the P-Sea WindPlot program. 12 13 MR. SANCHEZ: Madam Chair, if I may, I would like to second 14 I am in support of this as well. that. 15 16 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Okay, and so we have a motion by Mr. Diaz, 17 and we have a second by Mr. Sanchez. Dale, I think we have your 18 motion on the board. Just make sure that's how you want it 19 worded, and I think we've got it the way you asked. 20 21 MR. DIAZ: Yes. That's my motion. 22 23 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Thank you, sir. We have a couple of hands 24 up. First, I have Mr. Anson. 25 It's not relative to the motion. 26 MR. ANSON: I had raised it 27 earlier, but I would be in support of the motion. Thank you. 28 29 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: All right. Thank you, Mr. Anson. Do I need 30 to come back to you after the motion, Mr. Anson? 31 32 MR. ANSON: Please. 33 34 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Okay. Next, we have Dr. Porch. 35 36 DR. PORCH: Thank you. Just to make sure that I was clear on my 37 earlier comments about funding, the problem is that, here, we 38 still have -- We probably are still spending around a million 39 dollars on the whole program, and so this would be asking for 40 if we were to fund Benny's proposal, to come up with an us, 41 additional -- We just don't have that kind of funding in our 42 budget. 43 44 MR. DIAZ: Ms. Bosarge, can I respond, please? 45 46 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Yes, sir. Go ahead. 47 48 MR. DIAZ: Dr. Porch, I guess what I am wanting to encourage in

1 my motion is that you pursue funding, and, you know, the funding 2 might -- I don't know how all of this will work out, and it 3 might be some partnership between federal funding and private 4 funding, but I just want to encourage us to move forward and try 5 to get the system up and running, if possible.

7 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Thank you, Mr. Diaz. Is there any further 8 discussion on the motion on the board? All right. Seeing none, 9 is there any opposition to the motion? Hearing no opposition, 10 the motion carries. I am going to circle back to you, Mr. 11 Anson. 12

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13 MR. ANSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just following-up on a 14 couple of things that were brought up in some of the discussion 15 that's been had in the last five or so minutes, but you had 16 asked whether or not the funds that would be remaining or left 17 over from the council's budget would be available, and maybe Dr. 18 Simmons could address that, and then the second item is do we 19 need -- You had posed the question, and maybe even Dr. Freeman 20 posed the question, about specific items that the committee would need, or the council would need, to direct staff to do, 21 22 and so I'm just wondering if that's still out there in your mind 23 that we need to do.

25 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: All right, and so I will let Dr. Simmons 26 follow up on your question, first. Dr. Simmons.

28 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I mean, 29 that's up to the council's discretion. We have 2020 funds left 30 over, and I think it was close to a million, I believe, that was 31 unspent. It's up to the council. We cannot give the money 32 directly to the feds though. You have to work a different way 33 to do that, and so we would have to figure that out.

35 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right, and the second part of Kevin's 36 question -- Yes, Kevin, I think that we're going to need to have 37 a Shrimp Committee, at a future meeting, hopefully sooner rather 38 than later, because we're under a time constraint, and we're 39 going to need to see, number one, how the regulation reads right 40 now, as far as the requirement to carry an electronic logbook, 41 if selected by the Science Center.

43 We need to see that regulation in front of us, in order to have 44 a discussion, an educated discussion, about what kind of 45 document is needed, if any, I guess. I see Mara's hand up, and 46 so let me let her chime in, real quick. 47

48 MS. LEVY: Thank you. We could definitely look at the

1 regulation, and it's basically one sentence, but we also need to look at what details are both in the framework action that you 2 most recently did to do the cost-sharing and what is in the 3 amendment that put the ELB into place, because those things 4 5 aren't codified, but they are what the council did, and they do 6 have the costs and what equipment is required and discussions 7 about expectations for permit holders, et cetera, and more 8 details about the program.

10 I just encourage staff, when they put together the current 11 requirements, or the background, that we look at both the 12 regulation as well as the details that are not in the 13 regulations.

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CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: All right. Thank you, Ms. Levy. 15 The other 16 thing that we'll need to have before us will be some more 17 detailed information on some of these costs and some of these 18 We probably need to have in front of us the budget budgets. 19 that Clay was speaking to, the I guess million dollars that they 20 have right now, and what that million covers for them, what they Dr. Gallaway's costs for this program, he put 21 run with that. 22 that in his slides, but we can get some more details on that. Then what it will cost the industry, what the cost to industry 23 will be, if we move forward to this, if there is any, but that 24 25 needs be fleshed out, and so I think those are all things that we can take up at a future committee meeting. 26 Mr. Anson, did 27 you have some more follow-up on that?

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29 ANSON: Just one more thing to add to the background MR. material, and it's something that we've discussed off and on 30 31 when we have issues related to the ELB units and permits in the 32 shrimp fishery, and that is a selection process, and that might need to come from the Science Center staff, as to how the ELB 33 34 units, the requirements for the vessels, were established, and 35 so some of that background material as well could be helpful. 36 Thank you.

38 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Okay. That sounds good, and I think that Dr. 39 Gallaway was actually involved in that initial parameterization of how those were selected, because it is pretty detailed and 40 41 pretty in-depth, as to how they went about that, and I think it's actually in some of our background briefing materials for 42 43 this meeting, but I think you're right, that that would be nice to have presented to us in more detail, when we have more time, 44 45 and so that's three things right there that we need to put on a 46 future Shrimp Committee agenda. I see a couple more hands up 47 again, and we have Mr. Diaz and then Dr. Gallaway. 48

1 MR. DIAZ: Thank you, Madam Chairman. If I could, I emailed another motion to staff, a little while ago, if they could bring 2 that up, and so this other motion, Leann, would be to try to get 3 at what you were just speaking at just now, and so what I'm 4 5 trying to accomplish is I'm trying to accomplish to get the 6 staff to do some of this work for us and to come back at a future meeting and answer most of the budget questions that you 7 just talked about, so we had that information in front of us at 8 9 future meetings. We might have to wordsmith this a little bit.

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11 My motion would be to request staff to initiate a white paper 12 that explores the associated costs with the expanded number of 13 shrimp vessels participating in the pilot effort collection 14 program using P-Sea WindPlot. If I get a second, I will 15 elaborate a little bit more.

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17 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Okay, and so we have a motion on the board. 18 Do we have a second? 19

20 MR. SANCHEZ: I will second it.

22 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: All right. Thank you. Dale, I like your While they're getting it up there, the one thing I 23 motion. would say, and I'm not sure if you're capturing this in that 24 25 motion right now, but I think it's not only the costs that are associated with the P-Sea WindPlot program, but we need to be 26 27 able to compare that to the funds that may be available, and so 28 I think that's going to go back to looking at the budget that we 29 have within the Science Center right now that Clay spoke to and how those funds are allocated, so that we know do we have the 30 right number of personnel, how do things need to change there, 31 32 and then, also, compare it to I guess the possibility of some of the carryover funds that are available from the council, which 33 that's going to be a big discussion, but that needs to be in 34 35 front of us, if we think that could be an option. As long as 36 staff is capturing all of that in this motion, I'm okay with it, 37 but, if you don't think they are, then we could amend it, if you 38 would like.

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40 You basically laid out a lot of what I was going to MR. DIAZ: 41 say for rationale, and so I will leave that up to Dr. Simmons, if they need me to change the wording of the motion, and I 42 43 intend for them to bring back as much information as they can related to budget on the items you just discussed and any other 44 45 items that they come up with. Is the wording okay, Dr. Simmons, 46 do you think, to capture what me and Ms. Bosarge are talking 47 about? 48

1 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Dr. Simmons. 2 3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think we 4 might need to bring some of that back to the Admin/Budget 5 Committee that we're talking about, and then, as far as the б Science Center's budget goes, I mean, we can certainly work with them, and perhaps put some of that information, potentially, in 7 the white paper, but we're talking about two different budgets 8 9 here, two different pots of money, and so I just think we need to avoid confusion with that, and be clear, but, yes, we'll do 10 11 our best to bring this back to the council with this 12 information. 13 14 All right. Thank you, Dr. Simmons. CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: I think 15 your motion is fine as it stands then, Dale. Dr. Gallaway, 16 you've had your hand up for a while. Is it okay if we dispense 17 with this motion and then I will come to you, or do you want to 18 go ahead and chime-in now? 19 20 DR. GALLAWAY: You can come back to me. 21 22 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: Okay. Thank you, sir. All right. Is there 23 any further discussion on the motion on the board? Hearing 24 none, is there any opposition to the motion on the board? 25 Hearing no opposition, the motion carries. Dr. Gallaway, go 26 ahead. 27 DR. GALLAWAY: Slide 30 has more detail, and you may notice that 28 29 it's heavily weighted towards senior people and travel and programming, because we've got to go from Brownsville to the 30 Florida Keys and meeting with all the individual ports and the 31 32 port leaders, getting buy-in and sales and cooperation for this 33 program. 34 35 We've got to identify people who have their electronics within 36 port and put together a program that has total buy-in, and so 37 that's why these initial costs are so heavy. We need to rely on 38 our history with the industry and make sure that we're all on 39 the same page and looking to find a working answer, and so 40 that's the breakout of the budget, and more detail is provided 41 in Slide 30, which you may have already noted that. 42 Thank you, Dr. Gallaway, and I'm sure that 43 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: 44 staff will probably reach out to you, if they have any 45 questions, because they'll be bringing some of this information 46 back to us at a future meeting. 47 48 All right, and so we are, obviously, over time, and we do have

one other agenda item here, an AP summary, but we'll bring this 1 to a close, and, anything that we missed, we can pick up at Full 2 3 Council, unless Dr. Freeman has something that he thinks we need 4 to follow-up on right now. 5 6 DR. FREEMAN: I think that will be fine, to go through the rest 7 of this at Full Council. 8 9 CHAIRMAN BOSARGE: All right. Then I will bring the Shrimp 10 Committee to a close. 11 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on November 30, 2020.) 12 13 14 - - -15