

**Outreach and Education Committee Report
June 20, 2018
Phil Dyskow, Presiding Vice-Chair**

Staff reviewed a draft Outreach Plan on the Council's Descending and Venting Policy (Tab O, No. 4) and provided the Council with the Outreach and Education Technical Committee's recommendations (Tab O, No.8) on how to outreach barotrauma mitigation.

The Committee discussed the desire to have the Council play a central role in communicating the issue across all sectors from a region-wide perspective. It was emphasized that rather than producing redundant materials, the Council should focus on sharing a Gulf-wide perspective and warehouse, organize, and present the outreach materials and scientific information produced by partners in the Gulf region.

Without opposition the Committee recommends and I so move: **to adopt the Council's outreach plan on the use of venting tools and descending devices policy.**

Next, the Committee discussed a recommendation from the Outreach and Education Technical Committee regarding the need to hold a meeting of pertinent personnel to develop an action plan that will ensure the goals of the Council's Descending and Venting policy are realized. In addition to discussing how to promote the use of descending devices and venting tools, this group should address the collection of data on the use of barotrauma mitigation and the impact it has on dead discards, and ensure that information is incorporated into stock assessments.

Without opposition the Committee recommends and I so move: **Staff work with GSMFC to develop a meeting of scientists agency personnel, and stakeholders to develop and action plan that includes information dissemination and science and monitoring needs that ensure the policy purpose and objectives are both measureable and successful.**

Next, staff presented the Council with a draft of an Anecdotal Data Collection Tool called "Something's Fishy" (Tab O, No. 5) Staff explained that the tool would be used to collect information from fishermen about what is happening on the water. The tool does not aim to collect trip level data, instead it aims to collect information on trends or anomalies that are occurring with specific fish stocks. The tool would be deployed prior to each stock assessment and the information collected would be shared with the stock assessment participants at each data workshop. The Committee made recommendations on how to improve the tool and encouraged staff to deploy it on a trial basis.

The Committee heard a presentation on the Council's communication analytics (Tab O, No. 6). Staff informed the Committee that we are transitioning from our current regulations app to Fish Rules and eliminating our paper regulations.

Madam Chair this concludes my report.