

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ECOSYSTEM COMMITTEE

Renaissance Battle House Mobile, Alabama

October 24, 2018

VOTING MEMBERS

- 10 Paul Mickle (designee for Joe Spraggins).....Mississippi
- 11 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
- 12 Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- 13 Doug Boyd.....Texas
- 14 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- 15 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana
- 16 John Sanchez.....Florida
- 17 Greg Stunz.....Texas

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

- 20 Patrick Banks.....Louisiana
- 21 Susan Boggs.....Alabama
- 22 Roy Crabtree.....NMFS
- 23 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- 24 Tom Frazer.....Florida
- 25 Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
- 26 Robin Riechers.....Texas
- 27 Ed Swindell.....Louisiana
- 28 Lt Mark Zanowicz.....USCG

STAFF

- 31 Assane Diagne.....Economist
- 32 Matt Freeman.....Economist
- 33 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director
- 34 Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer
- 35 Karen Hoak.....Administrative & Financial Assistant
- 36 Morgan Kilgour.....Fishery Biologist
- 37 Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
- 38 Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
- 39 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer
- 40 Ryan Rindone.....Fishery Biologist & SEDAR Liaison
- 41 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- 42 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

- 45 Luiz Barbieri.....SSC
- 46 Avery Bates.....Organized Seafood Association of Alabama, AL
- 47 Jane Black-Lee.....MS
- 48 Shannon Calay.....SEFSC

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24

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PAGE 11: Motion to direct staff to develop a fishery ecosystem plan using the outline presented (Agenda Item Q-4), which shall include recommendations for how to integrate ecosystem factors into the council decision-making process. The motion carried on page 14.

PAGE 14: Motion to establish a technical ecosystem committee to consist of no more than thirteen ecosystem scientists from the Science Center, SSCs, academia and other stakeholders to assist the council on the development and implementation of a fishery ecosystem plan. The motion carried on page 18.

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1 The Ecosystem Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management
2 Council convened at the Renaissance Battle House, Mobile,
3 Alabama, Wednesday morning, October 24, 2018, and was called to
4 order by Chairman Paul Mickle.

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

10 **CHAIRMAN PAUL MICKLE:** I would like to convene the Ecosystem
11 Committee. The newly appointed members, I would like to
12 identify as Dr. Shipp, myself, Mr. Bannon, Ms. Bosarge, Mr.
13 Boyd, Mr. Constant, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Dugas, Mr. Sanchez, and
14 Dr. Stunz.

15
16 The agenda has five items, and Item I is the Adoption of the
17 Agenda, Tab Q, Number 1, if everybody could pull that up. Do I
18 have a motion? We have a motion. Do we have a second?

19
20 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** Second.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Any opposition? The motion passes. The next
23 item will be Approval of the Minutes, and that is Tab Q, Number
24 2. They are from the June meeting. We have a motion to accept,
25 and do I have a second? It's seconded by Mr. Sanchez. Any
26 opposition? The motion carries. That leads us into the Action
27 Guide and Next Steps, Tab Q, Number 3. Dr. Kilgour.

28
29 **DR. MORGAN KILGOUR:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Today, I am going to
30 review an outline of an ecosystem document, and I'm hoping to
31 get out of the committee whether or not it wants to pursue some
32 type of ecosystem-type document or if it would just like to
33 continue to get ecosystem updates, as appropriate, and so that's
34 what I am looking for here, either move forward with some type
35 of ecosystem document, like a plan, or just continue to get the
36 sporadic updates, as appropriate.

37
38 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Discussion? Should we move on? Sorry,
39 Morgan, but I had a hard time hearing you when you were
40 speaking.

41
42 **DRAFT OUTLINE OF FISHERY ECOSYSTEM DOCUMENT**
43

44 **DR. KILGOUR:** I'm sorry. I can just jump into the presentation,
45 if you would like, and kind of refresh everyone's memory of why
46 we're here. If we go to Tab Q, Number 4(a). This is just a
47 little bit about where we are in management.

1 At the Gulf Council, we kind of do -- Well, we do single-species
2 management, which is that bottom row down there. Every now and
3 again, we will get into some type of ecosystem approach to
4 fisheries management, such as when we included red tide in the
5 red grouper analyses and gag grouper analyses, but there have
6 been several different ecosystem-initiatives.

7
8 We've had an ecosystem status report presented to us, an
9 ecosystem regional roadmap presented to us, a national ecosystem
10 policy presented to us, and, in January of 2018, staff outlined
11 other councils' ecosystem documents, such as ecosystem plans or
12 ecosystem policies, and also Gulf Council actions that could be
13 considered ecosystem-type management. At that meeting, the
14 council made a motion to direct staff to develop a document that
15 outlines the component parts of an ecosystem plan, and so that
16 is what we are here doing today.

17
18 I wanted to state that I modeled this outline after the Pacific
19 Fishery Management Council's ecosystem plan. Their system seems
20 to be the most congruent with what we have in the Gulf of
21 Mexico. In the Gulf of Mexico, we have the Gulf of Mexico Large
22 Marine Ecosystem, and they have the California Current, and
23 their ecosystem plan outlines all the component parts of what
24 would be a programmatic EIS.

25
26 In the Chapter 1, that's where an overview of describing the
27 purpose and need and the scope of the document would be, and
28 this chapter, while there is several decision points that need
29 to be made at the onset of developing an ecosystem plan, this
30 chapter would continue to evolve as the ecosystem plan grew, and
31 so some decision points that I'm talking about are the council
32 would need to develop what is the purpose and need of an
33 ecosystem plan.

34
35 An example from the Pacific Fishery Management Council is that
36 an ecosystem plan is to enhance the management council's
37 species-specific management programs with more ecosystem
38 science, broader ecosystem considerations, and management
39 policies that coordinate council management actions across
40 fishery management plans. An FEP should provide a framework for
41 considering policy choices and tradeoffs, as they affect FMP
42 species and the broader ecosystem.

43
44 Also, the council would need to decide what is the geographic
45 scale that they want all the analyses in the document going to,
46 and what I mean by that is do you want -- Would the council want
47 the whole Large Marine Ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico, would
48 the council want to divide it into east and west, as

1 appropriate, by perhaps population dynamics or whatnot, but
2 that's something that the council would need to discuss at the
3 onset, and perhaps at species-specific.

4
5 Which species does the council want to include for discussion?
6 Does it just want species in the fishery management unit? Does
7 it want species in the fishery management and their forage
8 species? Does it want habitat or ecosystem component species
9 and forage species, and so there's a list that could go on and
10 on and on, but these things need to be discussed and decided on
11 at the onset, so that, when analyses are being conducted, they
12 can be as complete as possible.

13
14 Then does the council want to move forward with some type of
15 formal timeline for receiving ecosystem information? What this
16 means is some of the other councils have a meeting every year
17 that has an ecosystem day or an ecosystem portion, where the
18 council receives updates on the state of the ecosystem from NOAA
19 or NMFS or from other researchers, and so that would be
20 formalizing, perhaps, like every June that the Ecosystem
21 Committee meets, and these are the things that -- They are
22 getting a state of the Gulf of Mexico presentation every June,
23 and that's what that would be, and that could be outlined in
24 Chapter 1.

25
26 Chapter 2 would provide the fishery ecosystem plan's objectives
27 and how these objectives meet the purpose and need. This could
28 just be a list, a bulleted list, and, after those decision
29 points in Chapter 1 are made, staff suggested beginning with
30 this chapter.

31
32 Chapter 3 is an overview of all environments, similar to what
33 you see in your fishery plan amendments, where we have Chapter 3
34 and we have a description of each of these components, the
35 physical, biological, social, economic, and history of the
36 fishery. If done well, this could serve as a reference document
37 for fishery management plan amendments in the future, and so
38 maybe Chapter 3 is not so heavy and just that part is updated as
39 plan amendments come along, and, again, the analyses in this
40 Chapter 3 are heavily reliant on the decision points in Chapter
41 1.

42
43 Chapter 4 is the cumulative effects, and this would highlight
44 changes in the ecosystem. It discusses not only the effects of
45 fishing on the system, but the effects of non-fishing activities
46 on the system. This could be diversions, coastal population
47 increases, mining, marine traffic, anything that happens in the
48 Gulf of Mexico that would affect fisheries stocks that is not

1 specific to fishing.
2
3 Chapter 5 would be ecosystem policy priorities. Dr. Barbieri,
4 yesterday, mentioned that staff is currently reviewing the
5 council's research priorities, and this would be right in line
6 with the ecosystem policy priorities. There is already a
7 section in the council's research priorities that are ecosystem-
8 specific, and those can be folded into here, as well as anything
9 else that the council has noticed that it thinks is relevant to
10 our fishery stocks.
11
12 This chapter in particular could be used for researchers to
13 develop projects most important to the council, because this
14 chapter would outline that these are the things that we think
15 are most important.
16
17 I wanted to highlight that an ecosystem plan is not a binding
18 plan. This isn't actionable. It's basically a strategic
19 planning document of the council. This is where the council
20 wants to go, and these are the things that the council thinks
21 are important in the Gulf of Mexico, and these are the things we
22 think should be considered when making management decisions.
23
24 That would be outlined in Chapter 6, and so Chapter 6 describes
25 how the ecosystem science should be used in the council process,
26 and it could outline that the council would like specific
27 ecosystem objectives included in stock assessments, and it could
28 provide the mechanism for ecosystem-level science updates, such
29 as does the council want the Ecosystem Committee to meet every
30 year or twice a year to get updates on the ecosystem-level
31 information.
32
33 The Pacific Council also has an appendix of ecosystem
34 initiatives, where it seems that staff takes one of the
35 council's pet projects, perhaps, and does a comprehensive review
36 for the council in a formal white paper.
37
38 These could also be specific items that the council would like
39 to have presentations on, and I have heard, over the years,
40 mutterings about red tide, the hypoxic zone, things like that.
41 Those would be ecosystem initiatives that the council wants a
42 full, comprehensive analysis of one of those type things, or the
43 council can choose to address ecosystem initiatives in another
44 way, such as in the research priorities.
45
46 Other thoughts to consider are an ecosystem plan or policy would
47 not require any action or regulation on behalf of the council.
48 It's more of a guidance document, and it outlines the history as

1 a comprehensive review and highlights specific relationships or
2 areas needing further research, but it could be a one-stop shop
3 for information about Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

4
5 I want to highlight that this could be an enormous undertaking
6 and an enormous document. If we're depending on the scope that
7 the council chooses, it doesn't have a lot of flexibility of
8 being small, and it should have outlined a timeline for updates,
9 in order for the ecosystem plan to remain current, such as what
10 we do for our research priorities and our EFH reviews.

11
12 These are the additional questions. Would the council like to
13 proceed with producing a fishery ecosystem plan? If not, would
14 the council like to do something else, or are there any other
15 specific items that the council would like to see in an FEP,
16 should it choose to move forward?

17
18 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you, Dr. Kilgour. Is there any
19 discussion on this presentation, or should we delve into these
20 last three bullets, to give staff some information on the
21 direction that the council would like to proceed? Dr. Stunz.

22
23 **DR. GREG STUNZ:** Well, Morgan, thanks. That was a good job, and
24 it looks like you all have made some really nice progress on
25 outlining, based on that last motion, and so I feel like we're
26 on the right track. We just have to give a little more guidance
27 of what we want to do, and I would be in favor of moving forward
28 with a plan, based upon that outline.

29
30 One thing, I guess, we need is it seems like we would need some
31 guidance, and I don't know if that comes from our SSC or -- We
32 have expertise there on how to guide us, and that seems to be
33 the logical place, but I am not tied to that. Then, also, maybe
34 some guidance from that group, or just the committee, to think
35 about how does this really integrate into our plans, and so
36 we've got this document that you're saying, Morgan, that's going
37 to be potentially onerous or whatever, but how do we really use
38 that?

39
40 I don't have a good handle on that right now, and I think that
41 may become clear as we start to develop it, and my last point
42 would be, even though you mentioned that it has the potential to
43 kind of grow really quickly, I would suggest that we start
44 small, with that guidance I'm talking about, and get the key
45 features, and then we can make it an adaptable plan that can
46 grow as we grow and certain needs grow. That way, it doesn't
47 overwhelm us right out of the gate.

48

1 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** All right. I would like to just talk about
2 kind of the -- We looked into this in Mississippi a little bit,
3 when we went through our spotted seatrout stock assessment. We
4 started talking about ecological-type-based management
5 recommendations, or looking at certain data streams we get, and
6 we learned that there is a lag with the ecological side within
7 the fishery, and then there is also the lag in the stock
8 assessment side, and those have to come together, kind of meet
9 together, within the management realm to provide
10 recommendations, and it seems like it becomes complicated
11 quickly, but it's still very useful and very worth pursuing.

12
13 Some of these chapters that were brought up today I think have a
14 lot of value, and some are, frankly, raise some flags in my
15 arena, such as the Chapter 4, the cumulative effects. I guess
16 I'm not privy enough to know how you would actually quantify any
17 of that within a management realm or anything like that.

18
19 Morgan, do you have any input or any information on kind of the
20 experience of other areas that have looked into cumulative
21 effects and provided information towards management, or how does
22 that fit in with the overall kind of boiling it down to useful
23 information?

24
25 **DR. KILGOUR:** We do cumulative effects already in all of our
26 amendments. This would just be looking broader at other things
27 that affect fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Something that
28 comes to mind are hurricanes and red tides. Those have an
29 effect, and those are not fishing related, but those are things
30 that would affect broad ecosystems, and so those types of
31 things.

32
33 They are not just biological, and they also could be manmade,
34 but they are things that should be -- Basically, a cumulative
35 effects section in an ecosystem plan are things that could be
36 considered when making management decisions that basically the
37 management council, the fishery management council, has no
38 control over, but I think that's the impetus for changing
39 overfished and overfishing in the Magnuson Act to depleted,
40 because not all stocks are lower because of fishing pressure.

41
42 It could be something else, and so that's what the cumulative
43 effects would be, is more of a discussion of not just fishing
44 effects on an ecosystem, but also other things that could affect
45 an ecosystem, and we do that in our documents, but we try and
46 streamline it towards fishing effects right now.

47
48 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** The red tide ecosystem quantitative avenue we

1 went down, was it red grouper? I think you said gag grouper in
2 the beginning of the presentation, and was it gag? Okay. When
3 you have fish kills, is that worked in quantitatively as a
4 cumulative effect from a quantitative side?
5

6 **DR. KILGOUR:** I believe what they did was they used red tide as
7 a fishing fleet in the stock assessment, and so it was
8 quantitative, but a cumulative effects wouldn't give you a
9 percentage of -- It would be more of a holistic approach that
10 this is something to consider, and so, as far as quantitative
11 analysis on cumulative effects, I think you're right that it
12 would be very qualitative on these things could affect fisheries
13 in the future, or do affect fisheries now, but we have no way of
14 quantifying it.
15

16 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you. Would the council like to delve
17 into these additional questions? I think Dr. Kilgour came with
18 some guidance and some information, and would anyone be privy to
19 discuss? Mr. Anson.
20

21 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** I would echo the same comment that Dr. Stunz
22 brought up, is that I think there is some benefit to the council
23 and benefit to us. As Dr. Kilgour had mentioned, this is going
24 to be a large undertaking, because you are talking about a lot
25 more data, a lot more ways to look at things, and it would be
26 something that we haven't really had much experience doing here
27 as a council, but all that data is becoming more available, I
28 should say, and it's been collected, but it's becoming more
29 available and more accessible, I guess, for analysis.
30

31 I would like to make a motion, and we'll see if it flies, and I
32 have sent it to staff. **My motion is to direct staff to develop
33 a fishery ecosystem plan using the outline presented as Agenda
34 Item Q-4, which shall include recommendations for how to
35 integrate ecosystem factors into the council decision-making
36 process.**
37

38 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Is there a second for discussion? Mr.
39 Donaldson seconds. Kevin.
40

41 **MR. ANSON:** As I started out, I think there is some opportunity
42 in trying to look at impacts to the fishery resources that we
43 manage from other angles, or avenues, that might help us in how
44 to manage individual fisheries, and maybe we get to the point of
45 ecosystem species or component species, that type of thing, and
46 then certainly the low-hanging fruit, I guess, would be more of
47 an emphasis at this point, and I just think that we need to get
48 the process started and kind of see what we're able to do with

1 something and have something as a tool that we would be able to
2 manage fisheries that we have in our jurisdiction.

3
4 **DR. SHANNON CALAY:** Speaking on behalf of the Science Center, I
5 just wanted to remind the council that the Science Center has
6 made some products that can assist you with this process, and so
7 we have a Gulf of Mexico ecosystem status report that identifies
8 about a hundred different indicators, socioeconomic as well as
9 environmental.

10
11 Second, NOAA has directed each region to create ecosystem
12 implementation plans, and so we do have a Gulf of Mexico
13 Ecosystem Implementation Plan as well, and, finally, we now
14 established a team of scientists at the Science Center who will
15 be responsible for ecosystem support in the region, and so there
16 is more -- We have more staffing now to be able to assist with
17 these sorts of activities at the Science Center.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you. It seems like we've taken on
20 somewhat of a species -- I just think a single-species approach,
21 maybe in the beginning, would be just most efficient, as we
22 learn, and identifying the species of high variability in
23 recruitment, highly susceptible to ecological swings and M,
24 mortality, of certain age classes, I would suggest as being
25 prioritized.

26
27 The grouper and the gag obviously fit that mold, and so I think
28 continuing down that strategy, and I don't want to affect the
29 motion on the board, but I just wanted to add that. I think it
30 has value, but we should be efficient in identifying the species
31 that are most susceptible to these swings that are non-fishing-
32 based, to provide that valuable information for management. We
33 have a motion on the board and a second. Is there any other
34 discussion? Leann.

35
36 **MS. LEANN BOSARGE:** I've heard some good discussion, and I kind
37 of like your idea, Dr. Mickle, about maybe honing-in on -- I
38 guess, because ecosystem seems so broad, it's so hard for me to
39 get my hands around it, but it sounds like we have some more
40 assets at our disposal at the Science Center to help us, and I
41 guess maybe we could go in this broad -- Look at all the
42 different species that we manage and try and -- I mean, that
43 kind of is the point, I guess, of ecosystem management, is to
44 bring it all together at some point, but I think maybe honing-in
45 on one thing that we have an issue with.

46
47 Essentially, it's sort of like when they give us a quantitative
48 example of something that's very theoretical. Maybe if we

1 honed-in on that and looked at it, to see how we can use these
2 different ecosystem aspects to inform us, and then I would kind
3 of like to see the result of it, in a sense that, all right, and
4 so if we know that these are affecting it, but we can't control
5 those, now how do we -- What do we do with that information?
6 How do we use it to better manage the fishery?

7
8 Anyway, yes, I guess I'm okay with that, but I just don't want
9 it to end up being something -- I forget what word you had in
10 the presentation, huge, or -- Enormous. There you go. It was
11 enormous. It almost overshadows the work. We end up using our
12 time to work on that, as opposed to actually doing something
13 with red grouper that we know we have a problem with, and do you
14 know what I'm saying? It's good to be proactive, but I just
15 don't want it to get in the way of what we have to react to now,
16 and so maybe, if we could hone-in on a species, it could be more
17 useful to us, with our plates so full.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Mr. Donaldson.

20
21 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Leann, I share your concerns, and that's
22 the issue with ecosystem management, and I sit on a variety of
23 review panels, and we get -- Ecosystem is a big issue, and a
24 priority, and we get projects, and we always seem to say, well,
25 this is such a big issue, and there's other things of
26 importance, and we don't ever start, and I think that, by doing
27 this, as well as what NOAA Fisheries has done, it's going to
28 help us, and I agree that we need to focus.

29
30 We need to narrow our focus, so we don't bite off too much, but
31 I think we need to move down those lines, and I think it's
32 important, for not only the federal species, but some of the
33 state species, this ecosystem idea, and I think this can help.
34 This will be another tool that will help when reviewing
35 proposals and whatnot, because, a lot of times, we don't really
36 know what the priorities are or what we're really going to get
37 out of it, and I'm hopeful that this exercise will help kind of
38 define some of that, and so I'm in support of this motion.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Okay. Shannon, were you wanting to speak?

41
42 **DR. CALAY:** Sure. I just wanted to also mention that the
43 Science Center has held three stakeholder workshops to try to
44 map the ecosystem processes, and the stakeholder input has been
45 very, very useful to us in this process, and so they have a
46 wealth of information.

47
48 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you. All right. Any other discussion

1 before we vote? **To that, is there any opposition to the motion?**
2 **The motion carries.** If there is any other discussion or -- Mr.
3 Anson.

4
5 **MR. ANSON:** So now the process, I guess, as to how we make the
6 jumping-off point, because it is a big undertaking. There is
7 several disciplines or groups of folks that would have some
8 information and some knowledge about some of the questions that
9 could be addressed, that would need to be addressed, as you
10 develop an ecosystem plan.

11
12 **I will offer a second motion for consideration, and that is to**
13 **establish a technical ecosystem committee, to consist of**
14 **ecosystem scientists from the Science Center, the SSC, academia,**
15 **and other stakeholders to assist the council in the development**
16 **and implementation of a fishery ecosystem plan.**

17
18 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** We have a motion. Second by Dr. Stunz. Is
19 there discussion? Kevin.

20
21 **MR. ANSON:** Shannon had said that there is Science Center staff
22 that they have hired and who have expertise in the disciplines
23 that would be needed to develop an ecosystem plan and kind of
24 flesh out some of the details and such, and there is other folks
25 that could be identified as well that would be helpful in that
26 process, and I don't have any visions of that, in two meetings
27 or something, they're going to create this document and bring it
28 back to the council.

29
30 I mean, it's going to be a fairly long and drawn-out process,
31 and so some folks that we can bring in that would be committed
32 to doing that, to kind of see it to the end, I think would be
33 helpful and through a committee process, establishing a
34 committee, would help to do that.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Kevin, are you thinking to allow staff to
37 identify how many members to this committee, or did you want to
38 make that in the motion, and it's just a suggestion, but, if you
39 want to allocate authority to staff, maybe it should be in the
40 motion.

41
42 **MR. ANSON:** That's a good question, and so maybe Dr. Simmons,
43 either through budget, your consideration of the budget, or
44 previous history with this type of committee, what would be your
45 recommendation for the number of folks that the council could
46 support in this process?

47
48 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Dr. Simmons.

1
2 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
3 would suggest no more than seventeen or eighteen. It seems to
4 me, when you start getting more than that, it gets unwieldy, and
5 it's hard to get a quorum, sometimes. I also had a question
6 about the process. Would this be a competitive process? Would
7 there be applicants, and then the council would appoint them,
8 because, if they're not already on a committee or an AP, they
9 would have to get certain paperwork requirements to compose this
10 group, potentially, and so I'm now sure how that would work, and
11 could you kind of play that out, if this motion passes?
12

13 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Mr. Anson.
14

15 **MR. ANSON:** I think some application process be necessary, just
16 to kind of make sure we've got folks that have the right
17 background and expertise.
18

19 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Dr. Stunz.
20

21 **DR. STUNZ:** I am supportive of the motion, but I just had a
22 question about the best way to establish this group and not
23 duplicate what we have, and I'm not sure exactly who all on the
24 SSC -- I know we have ecosystem, but, Morgan, you relied on a
25 group to help you as you were developing this outline, right,
26 and maybe that's the start. You didn't? I thought I heard that
27 you said that there was some input from individuals.
28

29 I am just trying to say, within our framework of what we already
30 have, we could maybe form this without going to too much trouble
31 or expense and then bring in others, I guess, on an ad hoc
32 basis, as needed, or something like that.
33

34 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Mr. Boyd.
35

36 **MR. DOUG BOYD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for
37 Shannon. Shannon, when you were contacting and talking to
38 stakeholders, what group or groups did you talk to? Then I
39 would like to just ask, in general, of the committee, what is
40 your definition of a stakeholder in this particular context?
41

42 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Shannon.
43

44 **DR. CALAY:** Thank you. There were groups of stakeholders, and
45 generally the fishing community is who we were referring to, but
46 we would also -- Anyone who has a stake in the resource is
47 invited to participate. We talked to fishermen, both charter
48 and commercial, and the meetings were held in Pine Island and

1 Madeira Beach.

2
3 They were actually intended to map out a concept of the
4 ecosystem. However, they were very interested in talking to us
5 specifically about red tide as well, and so we heard a great
6 deal about the red tide impacts, and they were public meetings,
7 and so they were open to any member of the public.

8
9 **MR. BOYD:** Thank you.

10
11 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Morgan.

12
13 **DR. KILGOUR:** Just to clarify, when I developed this outline, I
14 used the Pacific Fishery Management Council's ecosystem plan,
15 but I also did this in collaboration with staff on the council
16 and also Mandy Karnauskas. She reviewed it, and she's been
17 instrumental in providing the council with ecosystem
18 information, and so she reviewed it and had some useful comments
19 to provide as well, but, yes, this wasn't a huge collaboration,
20 but it was definitely not just me.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Carrie.

23
24 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess,
25 in talking with Morgan and Dr. Frazer, it seems like eighteen
26 may be too many perhaps, but you say no more than eighteen, and
27 I would just remind everybody that we do have a Special
28 Ecosystem SSC, and there is three people on there, and so that's
29 already established. You populated that in June, and so I'm
30 assuming we would draw on that group as well for this work.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Mr. Anson.

33
34 **MR. ANSON:** Yes, that would be fine. Seventeen or eighteen I
35 thought was a little on the high side, myself. Maybe a maximum
36 of thirteen, or eleven, maybe. Eleven to thirteen probably
37 would be a little better.

38
39 Just going back to the stakeholders, fishermen, I think, would
40 be, obviously, some of those that would be needed, anybody that
41 really would have an interest in maybe some expertise or some
42 other information and knowledge about ecosystem and ecosystem
43 plan development.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** They have altered it to thirteen, and is that
46 what you really want, or, if there is confidence in council
47 staff, you would say to allow council staff to establish an
48 ecosystem committee and take all that out, but I don't want to

1 amend your motion.

2

3 **MR. ANSON:** I mean, if it's helpful to kind of set the goalpost,
4 I guess, you could leave of no more than thirteen, and that's
5 fine.

6

7 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Okay. Thank you. Dr. Barbieri, do you have
8 anything to add?

9

10 **DR. LUIZ BARBIERI:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I don't mean to
11 interfere in your process, but just to help facilitate the
12 information content for this discussion, and that is that,
13 currently, our SSC really has a number of members with quite a
14 bit of experience on ecosystem modeling and application of those
15 processes to fisheries management.

16

17 I think, within the SSC, and between the Standing and the
18 Special Ecosystem SSC, we already have a lot of the academic
19 involvement that we need to have, and, if we work very closely,
20 of course, with our Science Center, they have developed, over
21 the years, a number of groups and processes that have really
22 begun to address this much more explicitly.

23

24 If you are trying to create a more nimble, perhaps, process,
25 just using the resources you already have at your disposal, I
26 think you would be better served to just use a combination of
27 the SSC working with Science Center and council staff, and at
28 least getting this process started, and so, if that I hope
29 helps, in terms of you understanding what we already have on the
30 table as a committee.

31

32 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Thank you. Morgan.

33

34 **DR. KILGOUR:** I was just talking to Carrie, and it might be
35 helpful to do that, to start developing this in collaboration
36 with the SSC and the Special SSC, and bring it to our APs, like
37 we did with the coral document, where I had something actually
38 tangible for the APs to comment on. I was able to get feedback
39 that way, instead of having this nebulous idea in the sky, and
40 that might be something the council would like to consider.

41

42 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Leann.

43

44 **MS. BOSARGE:** I am okay with however you want to get it started,
45 but I do very much like the part of that motion that says
46 stakeholder input, and so I do want those stakeholders, and I
47 liked what Kevin said, that fishermen would be some of your most
48 important stakeholders in that group, and so I really hope that

1 you will pull those men and women in at some point.

2

3 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Shannon.

4

5 **DR. CALAY:** Thank you. I just wanted to agree with Leann and
6 say that there is -- You can create ecosystem models, and that's
7 one thing that could be done, but the field of EBFM is very
8 large and very diverse, and it would be a shame to try to do
9 only one thing, when so many things are possible, and so don't
10 limit yourselves to just the concept of building an ecosystem
11 model. That's just one of many things that could be done.

12

13 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** Leann.

14

15 **MS. BOSARGE:** Just to follow on that, a lot of times, your
16 fishermen are the ones that kind of groundtruth that, right,
17 when you have a model, and a model can tell you a lot of things,
18 but you need somebody to tell you if that is realistic or not,
19 and, a lot of times, they give you very realistic answers, but
20 we have seen some models where that's what it is. It's a model,
21 and it's doing its best to predict what's really out there, and
22 so that input from that stakeholder is extremely important as
23 you go through either the development or even going through the
24 results of what the model outputs are.

25

26 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** This is a good discussion, and I think it
27 sounds like a diverse committee is kind of voiced by everyone.
28 I mean, developing the ecosystem side is important, and the
29 stakeholder input is important, and then the management side of
30 how to actually get a plan that works to meet the needs of the
31 managers and the council is just as important, and so I think a
32 diverse committee is good, and a large committee is best focused
33 for that. All right, and so, Dr. Frazer.

34

35 **DR. FRAZER:** I think there's been a lot of good discussion. In
36 light of the comments though, I think that maybe we might direct
37 the staff to come back at some point in the very near future
38 with a process that will actually allow us to identify the
39 composition of that committee.

40

41 **CHAIRMAN MICKLE:** All right, and so we have a motion on the
42 board, and it's been seconded, and there's been a lot of good,
43 robust discussion. Is there any other discussion, before we
44 vote? **Is there any opposition to the motion on the board? No**
45 **opposition, and the motion passes.**

46

47 That moves us on. Is there any other housekeeping items with
48 Item Number IV? All right. That brings us into Other Business

1 at this time. Is there any other business from the committee?
2 Without any other business, I guess that's the end of the
3 committee. Thank you.

4

5 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on October 24, 2018.)

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