

Administrative/Budget Committee Report
January 29, 2018
Dr. Paul Mickle -- Chair

The Committee adopted the agenda (Tab G, No. 1) and minutes of the August 2017 Administrative/Budget Committee meeting in San Antonio, TX (Tab G, No. 2) as written.

Review of Ad Hoc Advisory Panels (Tab G, No. 4)

In 2015, the Council requested to review the existing ad hoc advisory panels annually, at its January meeting, to determine if any of the advisory panels needed to be discontinued or re-advertised for new members. Staff presented the list of current Ad Hoc APs, the number of meetings held since creation, and the list of members. After some discussion, the Committee decided to not make any changes to the existing list of APs or membership.

Discussion of SSC Organization (Tab G, No. 5)

Staff noted that convening the Standing and multiple Special SSCs has been a challenge both financially and logistically. Staff presented four restructuring alternatives to reduce the overall size of the SSC for Council consideration.

By a unanimous vote, the committee recommends and I so move: **To make Alternative 3 the preferred.**

“Alternative 3. Reduce only the size of the Special SSCs and add two additional Special SSCs

Keep the current size of Standing SSC at 18 members and reduce Special SSCs to 3 or fewer people, plus add two additional Special SSCs for “Stock Assessment” and “Ecosystem Modeling”.

Change the SOPPs to read:

Each Special SSC will consist of no more than 3 members. The Special Socioeconomic SSC will be comprised of 2 economists and 2 Anthropologists/Sociologists.”

Marine Resource Education Program 2018 Workshops (Tab G, No. 6)

The MREP is conducting two fisheries workshops and a single Council member is invited to participate. The first workshop is on fisheries science and will be held in St. Petersburg on April 24-26, 2018. The second is on fisheries management in Tampa on November 1-16, 2018.

MREP has also organized a new aquaculture educational program and invites 5-6 Gulf Council members to participate. The aquaculture program involves a tour of Maine aquaculture operations on May 15-18, 2018 and an aquaculture workshop on June 12-14, 2018 in New Orleans, LA.

Interested Council members who want to participate in either the fisheries or aquaculture workshops should provide their names to the Council Executive Director. MREP pays all travel costs.

No Committee motions relevant to this request were made

Under other business, staff requested guidance from the Committee on whether we should conduct marine violation background checks on SSC applicants. The general consensus of the Committee was that background checks were not needed.

Madam chair this concludes our Committee report.