

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORTS ON COOPERATIVE
AGREEMENTS AWARD NOS. NA15NMF4410011,
NA17NMF4410272, NA20NMF4410007, and NA20NMF4410261

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Independent Auditors' Report	3 - 4
Schedule of Cost Incurred Cooperative Agreements Award Nos. NA15NMF4410011, NA17NMF4410272, NA20NMF4410007	5 - 6
Schedule of Status of Grant Fund Payments Cooperative Agreements Award Nos. NA15NMF4410011, NA17NMF4410272, NA20NMF4410007, NA20NMF4410261	7
Notes to Schedules	8 - 12
Supplementary Information	13
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	14 - 15
Notes to Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	16
Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	17 - 19
Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance for Each Major Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance	20 - 22
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs	23 - 24



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Council Members
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Report on the Schedules

We have audited the accompanying schedule of cost incurred for the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020 of Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (the "Council") and the schedule of status of grant fund payments as of December 31, 2020, and the related notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Schedules

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these schedules in accordance with the accounting practices permitted by the U.S. Department of Commerce, described in note A, this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of schedules that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these schedules based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the schedules are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the schedules. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risk of material misstatement of the schedules, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the schedules in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the schedules.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying schedules referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cost incurred for the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020, by Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the status of grant fund payments as of December 31, 2020, on the basis of accounting described in Note A.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note A2 of the schedules, which describes the basis of accounting. The schedules are prepared by the Council on the basis of the financial reporting provisions permitted by the U.S. Department of Commerce, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, to comply with the financial reporting provisions of the schedules referred to above. Our opinion is not modified with respect to that matter. The schedules are not intended to be a complete presentation of the Council's financial statements and our opinion is not modified with respect to that matter.

Other Matters

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the schedules as a whole. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by the Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the schedules. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the schedules. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the schedules and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the schedules or to the schedules themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the schedules as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 5, 2021 on our consideration of the Council's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Council's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Tampa, Florida
August 5, 2021



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

SCHEDULE OF COST INCURRED
 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AWARD NOS. NA15NMF4410011,
 NA17NMF4410272, NA20NMF4410007

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020

Cost Category	Award No. NA15NMF4410011			
	Budget as Approved	Actual Cost Incurred 1/1/19-12/31/20	Actual Cost Incurred Before 1/1/2019	Total Actual Cost Incurred at 12/31/20
Council compensation	\$ 947,300	\$ 215,083	\$ 623,855	\$ 838,938
SSC compensation	291,700	71,837	135,407	207,244
Staff salaries	7,190,000	1,691,969	5,832,889	7,524,858
Benefits	3,851,500	763,563	2,802,361	3,565,924
Travel	2,549,000	406,688	1,433,270	1,839,958
Transportation	31,100	3,327	13,454	16,781
Rents	1,337,100	236,331	957,427	1,193,758
Communication	140,800	55,315	114,621	169,936
Printing	113,900	15,186	60,450	75,636
Non-federal contracts	956,200	762,309	532,973	1,295,282
Supplies	173,100	40,697	71,584	112,281
Capital equipment	41,600	32,530	8,000	40,530
Non-capital equipment	130,200	91,603	28,038	119,641
Other	-	-	28,800	28,800
State liason funds	1,200,000	283,690	1,054,855	1,338,545
	<u>\$ 18,953,500</u>	<u>\$ 4,670,128</u>	<u>\$ 13,697,984</u>	<u>\$ 18,368,112</u>

Cost Category	Award No. NA17NMF4410272			
	Budget as Approved	Actual Cost Incurred 1/1/19-12/31/20	Actual Cost Incurred Before 1/1/2019	Total Actual Cost Incurred at 12/31/20
Council compensation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SSC compensation	-	-	-	-
Staff salaries	285,700	193,415	100,623	294,038
Benefits	168,300	111,454	49,278	160,732
Travel	3,400	907	2,289	3,196
Transportation	-	-	-	-
Rents	7,700	4,169	2,092	6,261
Communication	9,600	10,007	1,700	11,707
Printing	5,800	3,545	-	3,545
Non-federal contracts	53,600	27,426	27,648	55,074
Supplies	3,700	2,386	238	2,624
Capital equipment	-	-	-	-
Non-capital equipment	2,000	2,630	-	2,630
Other	-	-	-	-
State liason funds	-	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 539,800</u>	<u>\$ 355,939</u>	<u>\$ 183,868</u>	<u>\$ 539,807</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

SCHEDULE OF COST INCURRED - CONTINUED
 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AWARD NOS. NA15NMF4410011,
 NA17NMF4410272, NA20NMF4410007

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020

Cost Category	Award No. NA20NMF4410007				
	Budget as Approved	Actual Cost Incurred 1/1/19-12/31/20	Actual Cost Incurred Before 1/1/2019	Total Actual Cost Incurred at 12/31/20	Actual Cost Incurred 1/1/19-12/31/20
Council compensation	\$ 201,800	\$ 91,545	\$ -	\$ 91,545	\$ 306,628
SSC compensation	54,000	35,413	-	35,413	107,250
Staff salaries	1,442,000	1,553,791	-	1,553,791	3,439,175
Benefits	747,700	710,212	-	710,212	1,585,229
Travel	499,100	54,568	-	54,568	462,163
Transportation	3,000	718	-	718	4,045
Rents	266,600	189,083	-	189,083	429,583
Communication	41,300	33,917	-	33,917	99,239
Printing	3,000	798	-	798	19,529
Non-federal contracts	327,700	136,963	-	136,963	926,698
Supplies	29,600	27,054	-	27,054	70,137
Capital equipment	27,000	7,193	-	7,193	39,723
Non-capital equipment	51,500	4,314	-	4,314	98,547
Other	-	28,800	-	28,800	28,800
State liason funds	270,000	269,986	-	269,986	553,676
	<u>\$ 3,964,300</u>	<u>\$ 3,144,355</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,144,355</u>	<u>\$ 8,170,422</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

SCHEDULE OF STATUS OF GRANT FUND PAYMENTS
 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AWARD NOS. NA15NMF4410011,
 NA17NMF4410272, NA20NMF4410007, NA20NMF4410261

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020

	Award No. NA15NMF4410011	Award No. NA17NMF4410272	Award No. NA20NMF4410007	Award No. NA20NMF4410261
Allocated funding	\$ 18,953,575	\$ 539,807	\$ 3,964,336	\$ 297,850
Acceptable grant costs				
Project costs prior to January 1, 2019	13,697,984	183,868	-	-
Project costs January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020	4,670,128	355,939	3,144,355	-
Less questioned costs	-	-	-	-
Total acceptable costs	\$ 18,368,112	\$ 539,807	\$ 3,144,355	\$ -
Available expenditure until project completion date	\$ 585,463	\$ -	\$ 819,981	\$ 297,850
Project completion date	December 31, 2020	September 30, 2020	December 31, 2024	September 30, 2022

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOTES TO SCHEDULES

December 31, 2020

NOTE A - DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNCIL AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A summary of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's significant accounting policies consistently applied in the preparation of the accompanying schedules follows:

1. Description of the Council

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (the "Council") was established pursuant to Section 302(f)(6) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council is responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of fishery management plans for the best use of fishery resources within the 200-mile limit of the Gulf of Mexico, as well as liaison activities with agencies of the five Gulf States. Funding for the Council comes solely from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

2. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying schedules have been prepared in conformity with the guidelines described or permitted by the U.S. Department of Commerce, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

3. Basis of Accounting

The accompanying schedules have been prepared in accordance with Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, to reflect the Council's cost incurred for the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020 and the status of grant fund payments as of December 31, 2020. Such schedules are not intended to be a complete presentation of the Council's schedules. The schedules were prepared on the modified accrual basis. Under the modified accrual basis, expenditures are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred and revenues are recorded when received in cash or when they are both measurable and available.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOTES TO SCHEDULES - CONTINUED

December 31, 2020

NOTE B - GRANT AWARDS

The Council is funded from cooperative agreements from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Council's total awards for the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020, including amounts established by the initial award and subsequent amendments, are summarized as follows:

Cooperative Agreement No. NA15NMF4410011

Amendment 0	\$ 3,519,058
Amendment 1	100,000
Amendment 2	574,829
Amendment 3	1,149,658
Amendment 4	1,886,190
Amendment 5	763,919
Amendment 6	915,929
Amendment 7	17,950
Amendment 8	11,966
Amendment 9	75,000
Amendment 10	1,971,538
Amendment 11	763,927
Amendment 12	310,623
Amendment 13	848,000
Amendment 14	1,879,230
Amendment 15	45,000
Amendment 16	25,000
Amendment 17	891,307
Amendment 18	145,000
Amendment 19	1,377,977
Amendment 20	424,000
Amendment 21	1,257,474
	<hr/>
	\$ 18,953,575
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Cooperative Agreement No. NA17NMF4410272

Amendment 0	\$ 158,469
Amendment 1	190,247
Amendment 2	191,091
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	\$ 539,807
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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOTES TO SCHEDULES - CONTINUED

December 31, 2020

NOTE B - GRANT AWARDS - Continued

Cooperative Agreement No. NA20NMF4410007

Amendment 0	\$ 1,723,128
Amendment 1	<u>2,241,208</u>
	<u>\$ 3,964,336</u>

Cooperative Agreement No. NA20NMF4410261

Amendment 0	<u>\$ 297,850</u>
	<u>\$ 297,850</u>

The Council has also entered into a cooperative agreement and agreement amendments with the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the year ending December 31, 2020. The budget amount for the multi-year awards is \$17,537,400.

The authorized budgets, approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each fiscal year are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>NOAA Approved Budget</u>	<u>Allocated Funding</u>
2015	\$ 3,519,900	\$ 3,619,058
2016	3,739,300	4,374,596
2017	4,102,600	3,477,496
2018	4,510,600	3,651,823
2019	4,957,500	4,013,930
2020	3,950,800	3,800,553
2021	4,210,300	-
2022	4,486,900	-
2023	<u>4,889,400</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 38,367,300</u>	<u>\$ 22,937,456</u>

NOTE C - ANNUAL AND SICK LEAVE

Vested annual and sick leave for Council staff at December 31, 2020 totaled approximately \$430,000. The Council established a policy to begin funding future annual and sick leave amounts effective, October 1, 1993. Such cash reserve totaled approximately \$430,000 at December 31, 2020.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOTES TO SCHEDULES - CONTINUED

December 31, 2020

NOTE D - EXPENSES

When necessary, reevaluation of the scope and activity plan of work still needing to be completed is performed. With proper approval, requests for change in the methods used to accomplish tasks, result in reallocated costs amongst direct cost categories.

The variances between the authorized budget and actual costs incurred for administrative awards completed in fiscal years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019 are summarized as follows:

Direct Cost	Authorized Budget	Actual Cost Incurred	\$ Variance	% Variance
Award No. NA15NMF4410011				
Personnel	\$ 1,670,800	\$ 1,729,360	\$ (58,560)	-3.50%
Fringe benefits	904,700	960,369	(55,669)	-6.15%
Travel	419,000	400,409	18,591	4.44%
Equipment	32,600	32,530	70	0.21%
Supplies	97,200	132,300	(35,100)	-36.11%
Contractual	549,400	1,010,663	(461,263)	-83.96%
Other	277,100	294,025	(16,925)	-6.11%
	<u>\$ 3,950,800</u>	<u>\$ 4,559,656</u>	<u>\$ (608,856)</u>	

Direct Cost	Authorized Budget	Actual Cost Incurred	\$ Variance	% Variance
Award No. NA15NMF4410011 - Contracts				
Personnel	\$ 48,500	\$ 38,278	\$ 10,222	21.08%
Fringe benefits	26,600	14,445	12,155	45.70%
Travel	22,000	6,279	15,721	71.46%
Equipment	-	-	-	0.00%
Supplies	4,400	-	4,400	100.00%
Contractual	26,500	35,336	(8,836)	-33.34%
Other	17,000	16,134	866	5.09%
	<u>\$ 145,000</u>	<u>\$ 110,472</u>	<u>\$ 34,528</u>	

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOTES TO SCHEDULES - CONTINUED

December 31, 2020

NOTE D - EXPENSES - Continued

Direct Cost	Authorized Budget	Actual Cost Incurred	\$ Variance	% Variance
Award No. NA20NMF4410007				
Personnel	\$ 1,697,800	\$ 1,567,429	\$ 130,371	7.68%
Fringe benefits	747,700	823,532	(75,832)	-10.14%
Travel	499,100	54,568	444,532	89.07%
Equipment	78,500	11,507	66,993	85.34%
Supplies	29,600	27,054	2,546	8.60%
Contractual	597,700	406,949	190,751	31.91%
Other	313,900	253,316	60,584	19.30%
	<u>\$ 3,964,300</u>	<u>\$ 3,144,355</u>	<u>\$ 819,945</u>	

NOTE E - CONTINGENCIES

Federal programs are subjected to financial and compliance audits by grantor agencies, which, if instances of material noncompliance are found, may result in disallowed expenditures, and affect the Council's continued participation in specific programs. The amount of expenditures which may be disallowed by the grantor agencies cannot be determined at this time, although the Council expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

NOTE F - RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

In March 2020, the United States and global financial markets experienced significant volatility resulting from uncertainty caused by the world-wide coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). General economic uncertainties have arisen that may impact future cash flows and changes in net assets as a result of the pandemic. The related financial impact cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

NOTE G - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Council has evaluated events and transactions occurring subsequent to December 31, 2020 as of August 5, 2021, which is the date the schedules were available to be issued.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020

Federal Grantor/Program Title	Federal CFDA Number	Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	Expenditures	Pass-Through Subrecipients
U.S. Department of Commerce				
<u>Indirect Awards</u>				
Pass-Through National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration				
Regional Fishery Management Councils	11.441	NA15NMF4410011	\$ 4,670,128	\$ 503,845
Regional Fishery Management Councils	11.441	NA17NMF4410272	355,939	-
Regional Fishery Management Councils	11.441	NA20NMF4410007	3,144,355	-
Regional Fishery Management Councils	11.441	NA20NMF4410261	-	-
Total federal awards			<u>\$ 8,170,422</u>	<u>\$ 503,845</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

December 31, 2020

NOTE A - BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards includes the federal grant activity of Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and is presented on the accrual basis of accounting. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)*. Therefore, some amounts presented in this schedule may differ from amounts presented in, or used in the preparation of the basic schedules.

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Negative amounts shown on the Schedule represent adjustments or credits made in the normal course of business to amounts reported as expenditures in prior years. The Council has elected to use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE C - CONTINGENCIES

These federal programs are subject to financial and compliance audits by grantor agencies which, if instances of material noncompliance are found, may result in disallowed expenditures and affect the Council's continued participation in specific programs. The amount, if any, of expenditures which may be disallowed by the grantor agencies cannot be determined at this time, although the Council expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL
OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND
OTHER MATTERS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Council Members
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the schedules of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, which comprise the schedule of cost incurred for the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020 of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (the "Council") and the schedule of status of grant fund payments as of December 31, 2020, and have issued our report thereon dated August 5, 2021.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the schedules, we considered the Council's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the schedules, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's schedules will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

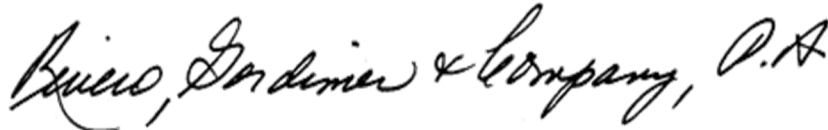


Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Council's schedules are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of the amounts presented in the schedules. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Council's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benicio, Gordinier & Company, P.A." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the date and location text.

Tampa, Florida
August 5, 2021

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR
EACH MAJOR PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL
OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
 FOR EACH MAJOR PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL
 OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Council Members
 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's (the "Council") compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Council's major federal programs for the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020. The Council's major federal program is identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to its federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for each of the Council's major federal programs based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*. Those standards and the Uniform Guidance require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Council's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Council's compliance.



Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

In our opinion, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020.

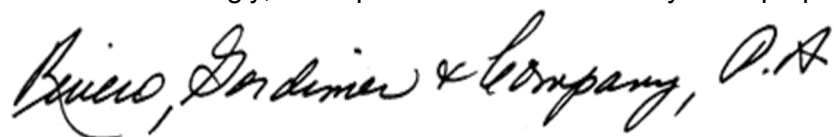
Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of the Council is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered the Council's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal program as a basis for designing the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for each major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control over compliance.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.



Tampa, Florida
August 5, 2021

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020

Section I - Summary of Auditors' Results

Schedules

Type of auditors' report issued Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting
Material weakness(es) identified? yes X no
Significant deficiency(ies) identified? yes X none reported

Noncompliance material to schedules noted? yes X no

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs
Material weakness(es) identified? yes X no
Significant deficiency(ies) identified? yes X none reported

Type of auditors' report issued on compliance
for major programs Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported
in accordance with Section 2CFR 200.516(a)? yes X no

Identification of major programs:

<u>CFDA Number(s)</u>	<u>Name of Federal Program</u>
11.441	U.S. Department of Commerce Regional Fishery Management Councils

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between
Type A and type B programs \$ 750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? yes X no

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has a biennial audit which does not qualify as a low-risk auditee.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS - CONTINUED

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

No matters were reported for the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020 and no matters were reported for the prior period. Accordingly, a summary schedule of prior year audit findings is not presented.

Section III - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

No matters were reported for the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2020 and no matters were reported for the prior period. Accordingly, a summary schedule of prior audit findings is not presented.

Section IV - Other Issues

No summary schedule of prior audit findings is required because there were no prior year audit findings related to federal programs.