

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORTS ON COOPERATIVE
AGREEMENTS AWARD NOS. NA15NMF4410011,
NA20NMF4410007, NA22NMF4410181, and NA20NMF4410261

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2022

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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, 2022 of Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (the "Council") and the schedule of status of grant fund payments as of December 31, 2022, and the related notes.

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, 2022, by Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the status of grant fund payments as of December 31, 2022, 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.

Responsibilities of Management for the Schedules

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these schedules in accordance with the basis of financial reporting provisions permitted by the U.S. Department of Commerce; 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.

In preparing the schedules, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Council's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedules

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the schedules as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the schedule.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the schedules, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the schedules.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Council's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the schedules.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Council's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the schedule as a whole. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 *U.S. Code of Federal Regulations 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 schedule. 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 schedule. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the schedule and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such

information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the schedule and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the schedule as a whole.

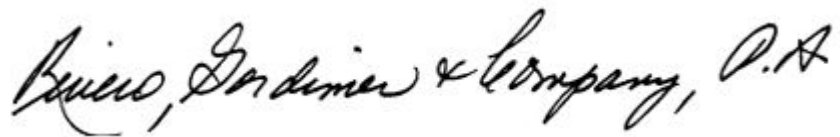
Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated August 9, 2023 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.

Restriction on Use

This report is intended solely for the information and use by the council members, and management of the Council's and the U.S. Department of Commerce and is not intended and should not be used by anyone other than those specific parties.

Tampa, Florida
August 9, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bueis, Gardner & Company, P.A." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

SCHEDULE OF COST INCURRED
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AWARD NOS. NA15NMF4410011,
NA20NMF4410007, NA22NMF4410181, NA20NMF4410261

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2022

Cost Category	Award No. NA15NMF4410011			
	Budget as Approved	Actual Cost Incurred 1/1/21-12/31/22	Actual Cost Incurred Before 1/1/2021	Total Actual Cost Incurred at 12/31/22
Council compensation	\$ 947,300	\$ 27,043	\$ 838,495	\$ 865,538
SSC compensation	291,700	21,583	206,343	227,926
Staff salaries	7,190,000	17,436	7,608,849	7,626,285
Benefits	3,851,500	6,682	3,500,286	3,506,968
Travel	2,549,000	9,161	1,831,847	1,841,008
Transportation	31,100	-	16,791	16,791
Rents	1,337,100	3,718	1,188,631	1,192,349
Communication	140,800	4,530	166,519	171,049
Printing	113,900	6,519	75,805	82,324
Non-federal contracts	956,200	493,453	1,313,915	1,807,368
Supplies	173,100	596	116,657	117,253
Capital equipment	41,600	-	40,530	40,530
Non-capital equipment	130,200	-	119,640	119,640
Other	-	-	-	-
State liason funds	1,200,000	-	1,338,546	1,338,546
	<u>\$ 18,953,500</u>	<u>\$ 590,721</u>	<u>\$ 18,362,854</u>	<u>\$ 18,953,575</u>

Cost Category	Award No. NA20NMF4410007			
	Budget as Approved	Actual Cost Incurred 1/1/21-12/31/22	Actual Cost Incurred Before 1/1/2021	Total Actual Cost Incurred at 12/31/22
Council compensation	\$ 620,000	\$ 348,844	\$ 91,545	\$ 440,389
SSC compensation	223,800	173,869	35,413	209,282
Staff salaries	4,757,400	3,294,289	1,553,791	4,848,080
Benefits	2,446,200	1,682,250	710,212	2,392,462
Travel	1,301,300	555,165	54,568	609,733
Transportation	6,400	396	718	1,114
Rents	784,100	520,920	189,083	710,003
Communication	116,800	61,068	33,917	94,985
Printing	7,700	164	798	962
Non-federal contracts	754,700	1,024,773	136,963	1,161,736
Supplies	77,300	34,562	27,054	61,616
Capital equipment	27,000	-	7,193	7,193
Non-capital equipment	79,500	20,759	4,314	25,073
Other	-	242	28,800	29,042
State liason funds	810,000	461,984	269,986	731,970
	<u>\$ 12,012,200</u>	<u>\$ 8,179,285</u>	<u>\$ 3,144,355</u>	<u>\$ 11,323,640</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,
 NA20NMF4410007, NA22NMF4410181, NA20NMF4410261

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2022

Cost Category	Award No. NA22NMF4410181			
	Budget as Approved	Actual Cost Incurred 1/1/21-12/31/22	Actual Cost Incurred Before 1/1/2021	Total Actual Cost Incurred at 12/31/22
Council compensation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SSC compensation	-	-	-	-
Staff salaries	78,400	18,691	-	18,691
Benefits	46,400	11,425	-	11,425
Travel	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	-	-	-
Rents	-	-	-	-
Communication	1,600	59	-	59
Printing	-	-	-	-
Non-federal contracts	18,500	11,085	-	11,085
Supplies	200	310	-	310
Capital equipment	-	-	-	-
Non-capital equipment	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
State liason funds	-	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 145,100</u>	<u>\$ 41,570</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 41,570</u>

Cost Category	Award No. NA20NMF4410261				Actual Cost Incurred 1/1/21-12/31/22
	Budget as Approved	Actual Cost Incurred 1/1/21-12/31/22	Actual Cost Incurred Before 1/1/2021	Total Actual Cost Incurred at 12/31/22	
Council compensation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 375,887
SSC compensation	-	-	-	-	195,452
Staff salaries	153,600	150,891	-	150,891	3,481,307
Benefits	96,400	94,966	-	94,966	1,795,323
Travel	-	-	-	-	564,326
Transportation	200	-	-	-	396
Rents	-	-	-	-	524,638
Communication	-	-	-	-	65,657
Printing	3,000	1,600	-	1,600	8,283
Non-federal contracts	42,800	36,279	-	36,279	1,565,590
Supplies	1,600	3,528	-	3,528	38,996
Capital equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Non-capital equipment	-	-	-	-	20,759
Other	-	-	-	-	242
State liason funds	-	-	-	-	461,984
	<u>\$ 297,600</u>	<u>\$ 287,264</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 287,264</u>	<u>\$ 9,098,840</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,
 NA20NMF4410007, NA22NMF4410181, NA20NMF4410261

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2022

	Award No. NA15NMF4410011	Award No. NA20NMF4410007	Award No. NA22NMF4410181	Award No. NA20NMF4410261
Allocated funding	\$ 18,953,575	\$ 12,012,201	\$ 145,139	\$ 297,580
Acceptable grant costs				
Project costs prior to January 1, 2021	18,362,854	3,144,355	-	-
Project costs January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022	590,721	8,179,285	41,570	287,264
Less questioned costs	-	-	-	-
Total acceptable costs	\$ 18,953,575	\$ 11,323,640	\$ 41,570	\$ 287,264
Available expenditure until project completion date	\$ -	\$ 688,561	\$ 103,569	\$ 10,316
Project completion date	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2024	September 30, 2025	September 30, 2022

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOTES TO SCHEDULES

December 31, 2022

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, 2022 and the status of grant fund payments as of December 31, 2022. 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.

4. Reclassifications

Certain amounts previously reported in the financial statements for the prior year have been reclassified in order for them to be in conformity with the current year presentation.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOTES TO SCHEDULES - CONTINUED

December 31, 2022

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, 2022, 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
	<u>1,257,474</u>
	<u>\$ 18,953,575</u>

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOTES TO SCHEDULES - CONTINUED

December 31, 2022

NOTE B - GRANT AWARDS - Continued

Cooperative Agreement No. NA20NMF4410007

Amendment 0	\$ 1,723,128
Amendment 1	2,241,208
Amendment 2	1,730,345
Amendment 3	2,174,465
Amendment 4	2,098,624
Amendment 5	-
Amendment 6	-
Amendment 7	<u>2,044,431</u>
	<u>\$ 12,012,201</u>

Cooperative Agreement No. NA22NMF4410181

Amendment 0	<u>\$ 145,139</u>
	<u>\$ 145,139</u>

Cooperative Agreement No. NA20NMF4410261

Amendment 0	<u>\$ 297,580</u>
	<u>\$ 297,580</u>

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOTES TO SCHEDULES - CONTINUED

December 31, 2022

NOTE B - GRANT AWARDS - Continued

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, 2022. 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:

Year	No. NA20NMF4410007	No. NA15NMF4410011	Total Funding Expended	NOAA Approved Budget
	Funding Expended	Funding Expended		
2020	\$ 3,144,355	\$ 4,059,796	\$ 7,204,151	\$ 3,950,800
2021	4,032,167	590,721	4,622,888	4,210,300
2022	4,147,118	-	4,147,118	4,486,900
2023	-	-	-	4,889,400
	<u>\$ 11,323,640</u>	<u>\$ 4,650,517</u>	<u>\$ 15,974,157</u>	<u>\$ 17,537,400</u>

NOTE C - ANNUAL AND SICK LEAVE

Vested annual and sick leave for Council staff at December 31, 2022 totaled approximately \$576,000. The Council established a policy to begin funding future annual and sick leave amounts effective, October 1, 1993. Such cash reserve totaled approximately \$576,000 at December 31, 2022.

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.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOTES TO SCHEDULES - CONTINUED

December 31, 2022

NOTE D - EXPENSES - Continued

The variances between the authorized budget and actual costs incurred for administrative awards completed in fiscal years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 are summarized as follows:

Direct Cost	Authorized Budget	Actual Cost Incurred	\$ Variance	% Variance
Award No. NA15NMF4410011				
Personnel	\$ 28,197	\$ 66,062	\$ (37,865)	-134.29%
Fringe benefits	8,383	6,682	1,701	20.29%
Travel	77,110	9,161	67,949	88.12%
Equipment	-	-	-	0.00%
Supplies	-	596	(596)	0.00%
Contractual	500,000	493,453	6,547	1.31%
Other	6,500	14,767	(8,267)	-127.18%
	<u>\$ 620,190</u>	<u>\$ 590,721</u>	<u>\$ 29,469</u>	

Direct Cost	Authorized Budget	Actual Cost Incurred	\$ Variance	% Variance
Award No. NA20NMF4410007				
Personnel	\$ 3,903,400	\$ 3,817,002	\$ 86,398	2.21%
Fringe benefits	1,698,500	1,682,250	16,250	0.96%
Travel	802,200	555,165	247,035	30.79%
Equipment	28,000	20,759	7,241	0.00%
Supplies	47,700	34,562	13,138	27.54%
Contractual	966,900	1,486,757	(519,857)	-53.77%
Other	601,100	582,790	18,310	3.05%
	<u>\$ 8,047,800</u>	<u>\$ 8,179,285</u>	<u>\$ (131,485)</u>	

Direct Cost	Authorized Budget	Actual Cost Incurred	\$ Variance	% Variance
Award No. NA22NMF4410181				
Personnel	\$ 78,400	\$ 18,691	\$ 59,709	76.16%
Fringe benefits	46,400	11,425	34,975	75.38%
Travel	-	-	-	0.00%
Equipment	-	-	-	0.00%
Supplies	200	310	(110)	-55.00%
Contractual	18,500	11,085	7,415	40.08%
Other	1,600	59	1,541	96.31%
	<u>\$ 145,100</u>	<u>\$ 41,570</u>	<u>\$ 103,530</u>	

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOTES TO SCHEDULES - CONTINUED

December 31, 2022

NOTE D - EXPENSES - Continued

Direct Cost	Authorized Budget	Actual Cost Incurred	\$ Variance	% Variance
Award No. NA20NMF4410261				
Personnel	\$ 153,600	\$ 150,891	\$ 2,709	1.76%
Fringe benefits	96,400	94,966	1,434	1.49%
Travel	-	-	-	0.00%
Equipment	-	-	-	0.00%
Supplies	1,600	3,528	(1,928)	-120.50%
Contractual	42,800	36,279	6,521	15.24%
Other	3,200	1,600	1,600	50.00%
	<u>\$ 297,600</u>	<u>\$ 287,264</u>	<u>\$ 10,336</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 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Council has evaluated events and transactions occurring subsequent to December 31, 2022 as of August 9, 2023, 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, 2022

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2022

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	\$ 590,721	\$ 500,810
Regional Fishery Management Councils	11.441	NA20NMF4410007	8,179,285	-
Regional Fishery Management Councils	11.441	NA22NMF4410181	41,570	-
Regional Fishery Management Councils	11.441	NA20NMF4410261	287,264	-
Total federal awards			<u>\$ 9,098,840</u>	<u>\$ 500,810</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, 2022

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, 2022



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, 2022 of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (the "Council") and the schedule of status of grant fund payments as of December 31, 2022, and have issued our report thereon dated August 9, 2023.

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.



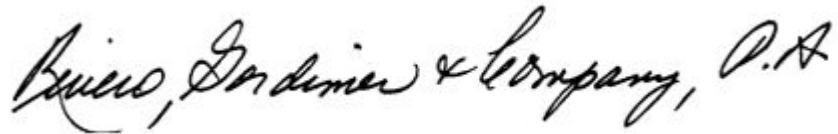
Compliance and Other Matters

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.

Tampa, Florida
August 9, 2023

Handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Buice, Gardner & Company, P.A."

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, 2022



**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
*Opinion on 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, 2022. 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.

In our opinion, the 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, 2022.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

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 the audit 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). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Council and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Council's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Council's federal programs.



Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Council's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Council's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the Council's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Council's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances 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 the Council's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

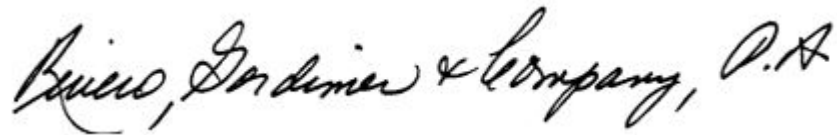
A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement 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 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 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 the attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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 9, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce, Gardner & Company, P.A." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

For the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2022

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, 2022

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

No matters were reported for the twenty-four months ended December 31, 2022 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, 2022 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.