

**Administrative / Budget Committee Report  
August 22, 2022  
Mr. Phil Dyskow – Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda (**Tab G, No. 1**) as written and approved the minutes (**Tab G, No. 2**) of the April 2022 meeting as written.

***Review of Final 2022 Funded Budget and Activities (Tab G, No. 4)***

Staff presented Tab G, No. 4. A Committee member asked about the position of funding relative to expenditures for the total award to date. Staff shared the figures for funding to date and stated that the total carry-over from 2020 and 2021 is \$695,000 after taking all subcontracted obligations into account. Another Committee member asked if the contracted figure for 2022 included any funds earmarked for the NMFS Southeast Regional Office (SERO), which staff clarified that it does not.

The Committee recommends, and I so move: **that the Council approve the final 2022 Budget as written.**

***Motion carried with no opposition.***

***Review and Discuss Proposed Modifications to Council's SOPPs (Tab G, No. 5)***

In response to discussions held during closed session in June 2022, and to clarify unclear verbiage, staff proposed specific language updates to three sections of the SOPPs.

In **Section 2.3.3 Officers**: Staff clarified that the verbiage in the last sentence “Alternate representatives (designee or principal) do not assume these offices” was intended to refer to the Offices of Council Chair and Vice Chair, not committee positions.

The Committee recommends, and I so move: **that the Council approve the proposed revised language in Section 2.3.3 as presented.**

**Alternate representatives (designee or principal) do not assume ~~these offices~~ the offices of Council Chair or Council Vice Chair, but may participate as members of committees and act as a Committee Chair or Committee Vice Chair.**

***Motion carried with no opposition.***

Under **Section 2.6 Advisory Panels (APs)/Fishing Industry Advisory Committees (FIACs)** in **Section 2.6.2 Members and Chair**: Staff offered two alternative edits to the language in the last paragraph, which details the actions that the Council might take in the event that a fishing violation was discovered to have been committed by a potential or existing AP member. Committee members asked for clarification of the existing process as to when violations are

currently checked and expressed a desire to not encumber the existing process. Staff responded that the proposed changes in this section do not alter the existing fishing violation check process, but speak to the potential actions of the Council after a violation is discovered and provide the most flexibility.

The Committee recommends, and I so move: **that the Council approve the proposed revised language in Section 2.6.2 as presented.**

**The presence of a fishing violation is an important aspect in consideration of an AP appointment. The Council has determined: 1) Applicable fishing violations include only violations of federally managed species in either State or Federal waters, *regardless of the penalty (i.e., written warning, civil fine, criminal conviction)*; 2) Individuals are ineligible to serve on an AP within three years of the *final* finding of liability through adjudication, settlement, or default. *A finding of liability is final after any applicable appeal period expires*; and, 3) Vessel owners shall not automatically be held responsible for violations by a crew member when the owner is not present. *If an individual who is currently serving on an AP is found to have a fishing violation that meets the preceding criteria, subsequent to their appointment, the decision to maintain or remove the individual from the AP is at the Council's discretion.***

***Motion carried with no opposition.***

**In Section 2.8.3 Standing Committees:** Alternative proposed language in this section referenced the composition of the Gulf SEDAR Committee. In addition to adding the Chair of the Sustainable Fisheries Committee to this body, there was a consideration to remove the Red Drum Committee Chair. A Committee member motioned to remove the Red Drum Chair from the SEDAR Committee because the Red Drum Committee meets infrequently. Another Committee member spoke in support of retaining the current membership with the addition of the Sustainable Fisheries Committee Chair because of the importance of red drum in certain regions, and offered a substitute motion.

The Committee recommends, and I so move: **that the Council approve the proposed revised language in Section 2.6.2 as presented.**

**The Gulf SEDAR Committee is comprised of the Council Chair and the Coastal Migratory Pelagics, Red Drum, *Sustainable Fisheries*, and Reef Fish Management Committee Chairs. This committee reviews and advises on SEDAR stock assessment priorities.**

***Motion carried with no opposition.***

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.