

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET COMMITTEE

Webinar

OCTOBER 26, 2020

VOTING MEMBERS

Phil Dyskow.....Florida
 Susan Boggs.....Alabama
 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
 Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
 Paul Mickle (designee for Joe Spraggins).....Mississippi
 Robin Riechers.....Texas
 Chris Schieble (designee for Patrick Banks).....Louisiana
 Bob Shipp.....Alabama
 Ed Swindell.....Louisiana
 Troy Williamson.....Texas

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
 Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
 Roy Crabtree.....NMFS
 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana
 Tom Frazer.....Florida
 Lt. Nicholas Giancola.....USCG
 John Sanchez.....Florida
 Greg Stunz.....Texas

STAFF

Matt Freeman.....Economist
 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director
 Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer
 Karen Hoak.....Administrative & Financial Assistant
 Lisa Hollensead.....Fishery Biologist
 Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
 Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
 Jessica Matos.....Document Editor & Administrative Assistant
 Natasha Mendez-Ferrer.....Fishery Biologist
 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer
 Kathy Pereira.....Meeting Planner & Travel Coordinator
 Ryan Rindone.....Fishery Biologist & SEDAR Liaison
 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
 Charlotte Schiaffo.....Administrative & Human Resources Assistant
 Camilla Shireman.....Administrative & Communications Assistant
 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director

1 Carly Somerset.....Fisheries Outreach Specialist

2

3 **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

4 Peter Hood.....NMFS

5 Tim Griner.....SAFMC

6 Clay Porch.....SEFSC

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TABLE OF MOTIONS

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PAGE 18: Motion to request staff provide guidance on using 2020 budget funds for the intention of red drum independent offshore purse seine data and an independent stock assessment on gray triggerfish. The motion carried on page 21.

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1 The Administrative/Budget Committee of the Gulf of Mexico
2 Fishery Management Council convened via webinar on Monday
3 afternoon, October 26, 2020, and was called to order by Chairman
4 Phil Dyskow.

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

10 **CHAIRMAN PHIL DYSKOW:** I would like to call this meeting of the
11 Administrative and Budget Committee to order. The members of
12 this committee are myself, Phil Dyskow, as Chair, General
13 Spraggins as Vice Chair, Patrick Banks, Susan Boggs, Dave
14 Donaldson, Martha Guyas, Robin Riechers, Dr. Bob Shipp, Ed
15 Swindell, and Troy Williamson.

16
17 The first order of business is to adopt the agenda, but, before
18 we do that, we have a request for an addition to the agenda from
19 Susan Boggs. Susan, could you please state, for the record,
20 your addition to the agenda?

21
22 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** Yes, and thank you, Mr. Chair. I was just
23 curious if we could get an update of when we might be hearing
24 the results of the projected funded projects that we did last
25 October, and I know it's not been quite a year, but I just don't
26 want that to fall off our radar, and if we could just get kind of
27 an update. Thank you.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Ms. Boggs. Dr. Simmons, we can
30 either add that to Item V or put it under New Business in Item
31 VI, and which would be your preference?

32
33 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** We can just add it to Item
34 V, please.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** All right. So done. I need a motion to adopt
37 the agenda as amended from a committee member.

38
39 **DR. BOB SHIPP:** So moved.

40
41 **MR. ED SWINDELL:** Second.

42
43 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you. Is anyone opposed to this motion?
44 Therefore, the agenda is approved. Next, we need to approve the
45 minutes of the September 2020 Admin/Budget Committee meeting,
46 and so I will need a motion to do that.

47
48 **DR. PAUL MICKLE:** So moved.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** I need a second.

3
4 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Second.

5
6 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you. Is there any opposition to
7 approving the minutes from the September 2020 Admin/Budget
8 Committee meeting? If not, the minutes are approved. The next
9 item on the agenda is the Action Guide and Next Steps, and, Dr.
10 Simmons, I'm going to turn it over to you.

11
12 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The first
13 item is really for the committee's information and for folks to
14 ask questions and provide any feedback, as needed. We're going
15 to review the year-to-date expenditures for the no-cost
16 extension, which is FY 2015 to 2019, and we're also going to
17 talk about this year, the 2020 administrative award. We're
18 going to talk about the approved 2020 budget, which you just
19 passed at the last September meeting, and where we are with
20 expenditures to-date, and so, again, just ask questions, and
21 this is for your information.

22
23 For Agenda Item Number V, we are going to need you to take
24 action on this, and we are requesting that you review a modified
25 scope of work for the previous no-cost extension, which we are
26 going to try to extend for another year, which is unprecedented,
27 but, due to COVID-19, we've been informed by our grant
28 coordinator that this may be possible, and so we are looking for
29 your review and feedback on that scope of work and also on the
30 funding amount for three items in Tab G, Number 6. Thank you.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Is there any discussion on that? Dr. Simmons,
33 you indicated that you need a motion to approve this, and is
34 there a motion that states this?

35
36 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Mr. Chair, when we get to Tab G,
37 Number 6, and I go through this in a little bit more detail,
38 yes, we would need a motion, please, by Full Council, at least.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay. Do you have anything else under Tab G,
41 Item 4 and 5, or is that going to be handled by Beth?

42
43 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Beth is going to handle that.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay. The next item, Number IV on our agenda,
46 which is Tab G, Number 4 and 5, Ms. Beth Hager will run us
47 through that.

1 **REVIEW EXPENDITURES FOR NO-COST EXTENSION REQUEST (FY 2015-2019)**
2 **AND 2020 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES**
3

4 **MS. BETH HAGER:** Hi. The table in Tab G, Number 4 shows the
5 expenditures for the 2015 to 2019 administrative award. At the
6 top, you can see we've spent \$17,691,405 through the initial
7 five-year award period. We have spent an additional \$349,259 up
8 through the end of September, and we anticipate spending an
9 additional \$347,771 prior to December 31, 2020. That's mostly
10 finishing up those contracts and any other business that we have
11 this year.

12
13 Our total funding was \$18,953,575, and so we will have
14 approximately 39 percent of our funds unspent at the end of the
15 year. We expect to request that second no-cost extension that
16 Carrie just mentioned to complete the work associated with this
17 remaining \$565,140. Carrie will take the council through those
18 activities associated with the request when we get to Item
19 Number VI in this committee. Does anyone have any questions
20 about this table, specifically?

21
22 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** If not, we'll pass it back to Dr. Simmons.
23

24 **MS. HAGER:** Actually, we have Tab G, Number 5 still to go
25 through, if that's all right.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you. This is the funded 2020 budget
28 alongside the expenditures for the 2020 administrative award,
29 and this is through September 30, and so it's the third-quarter
30 report. Most of our costs have remained on level with where we
31 expected them to, except a few notable things, and the largest
32 variances are shown in the equipment, contractuals, and in the
33 travel and meeting room categories.

34
35 We saved a bit in the equipment line due to lower than planned
36 costs to upgrade the primary server and to leasing the new
37 telephone equipment, which ended up being a substantially better
38 value than the purchase option for the equipment. The original
39 contractual budget line included remodeling the office space,
40 which was not required this year, and the visioning activity
41 that the council decided not to move forward with in this year.

42
43 Travel and meeting room expenditures were substantially lower
44 than originally budgeted for, due to the pandemic, as all of our
45 meetings have been virtual since mid-March. Overall, we expect
46 to end this year probably with just over about a million dollars
47 unspent in this funding cycle to carry forward for the next four
48 years. That's just a rough anticipation, based on where we are

1 in this third quarter and the known expenditures that we'll have
2 between now and the end of the year. This is all just
3 informational at this point.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Are there any questions for Beth? Seeing
6 none, now we will go on to Tab G, Number 6 and Dr. Simmons.

7
8 **REVIEW AND DISCUSS SCOPE OF WORK**
9

10 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think Ms.
11 Boggs was asking about the projects that the council -- I think
12 there were seven, and is that right, Beth?

13
14 **MS. HAGER:** Yes.

15
16 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** We were able to fund those with the
17 carryover money, and the council voted on that last October, and
18 so those projects are ongoing, and we've got midterm reports
19 from all the folks we contracted with, and so those funds are on
20 track to be spent by the end of the year, December of 2020, and
21 the report will be due at the end of December and go to NOAA in
22 mid-March.

23
24 I think we have a high number of projects, and we'll have to
25 think about how they will be put out to the council, and we
26 certainly don't want to do them all at once, and so we'll have
27 to think about maybe the best opportunity and agenda time on
28 when those would go to the council, and I will work with the
29 Chair and Vice Chair on that, to figure out the best path
30 forward on that, but we're expecting those to be available in
31 the spring of 2021. I will stop there and see if there's any
32 questions on that, before I get into Tab G, Number 6. Mr.
33 Chair, I don't think we have any other questions on that, and
34 should I go to Tab G, Number 6?

35
36 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Yes, please. Go ahead.

37
38 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Okay. We have had quite a few
39 conversations with our grant coordinator, and I believe several
40 other management councils are in this situation. When we
41 originally requested the no-cost extension, at the end of last
42 year through this year, of course, we had a lot of meetings
43 scheduled and items, travel items, that we thought that we would
44 be able to conduct in 2020 that we were unable to complete, due
45 to the pandemic, as well as other things, such as staffing and
46 resource limitations.

47
48 That being said, what we would like to try to do, with the

1 council's concurrence, is we suggest using the remaining funds,
2 which, as Beth just went through, it's a little over a half-
3 million that we're anticipating by the end of this year, and to
4 modify our scope of work based on what was originally requested,
5 which includes an item for ecosystem, coral, and then any
6 remaining meetings that we may be able to cover by the end of
7 2021, which was originally in our no-cost, and it would require
8 just a modified scope of work and not necessarily a
9 reprogramming of that funding, which we were told is more likely
10 to be approved by the Grants Management Division.

11
12 What we're proposing for ecosystem is we really have not been
13 able to accomplish very much regarding, basically due to
14 priorities and cancelled meetings, our Gulf fishery ecosystem
15 plan, and you can see there's quite a bit of background there
16 about what we can do with that. We are planning to talk about
17 it in November, but we'll have to see what happens here with our
18 agendas, in light of the hurricane coming into the Gulf here
19 shortly.

20
21 What we're suggesting is that we change the scope of this work
22 from holding meetings and traveling to complete this work to a
23 contract with an outside academic for the development of this
24 Gulf FEP, and, basically, like I said, this change in scope has
25 to be also approved, not only by you all, but also by the Grants
26 Management Division for twelve months, and so this a very tight
27 timeline.

28
29 What we're thinking we would do is, if you agree with this, you
30 need to tell us how much of the funding you would like to put
31 for this project, and \$250,000 to \$300,000 was estimated, and we
32 would put out the call for proposals, and remember, if it's over
33 \$100,000, we need to make this competitive, but we would develop
34 a call for proposals, and then we would develop the proposal for
35 a certain period of time.

36
37 Our slots for that would be, for logistics and scheduling, if
38 you concur with this, we would, by mid-December, develop a
39 contract and complete it and then have the Council Chair, Chair
40 of the Ecosystem, lead council staff, and our Deputy and
41 Executive Directors review those proposals for various criteria
42 and decide what we wanted to move forward with.

43
44 The other idea we had that was within our original no-cost
45 extension was work towards Coral 10 and putting together some
46 information that we also have been unable to complete to-date,
47 and we were working with the sanctuary and its expansion, and
48 Coral 9 has now published a date for the proposed final rule

1 comment period, and I'm getting my timing all mixed up, but the
2 final rule.

3
4 What we're suggesting here is that we would contract with an
5 academic to look at all the information and citations on the
6 areas that were considered potentially in Coral 9, but the
7 council decided not to move forward with, and so, since 2014,
8 what new information in the Gulf of Mexico is known about those
9 areas and compile that information together to help us move
10 towards Coral 10 and then provide that information to the
11 council and to the various APs.

12
13 You can see how we're thinking the proposal might be, and we
14 would conduct a comprehensive literature review and identify a
15 consistent level of details for comparison across and among
16 those areas and provide citations, et cetera.

17
18 We're estimating the cost of that would be \$150,000 to \$175,000.
19 Then, again, for logistics and scheduling, we would have to send
20 this into the Grants Management Division, and they would have to
21 approve it, and then we would have to have a proposal, and then
22 we're suggesting that, for this one, the Council Chair, Chair of
23 the Habitat Protection and Restoration Committee, lead council
24 staff, the Deputy, and myself would be involved in reviewing
25 those proposals. Then developing the contract or fortifying the
26 contract.

27
28 For the remaining funds, it's around \$90,000 to \$165,000, and we
29 are suggesting that that would be requested to conduct advisory
30 panel meetings, SSC meetings, technical committee meetings,
31 public hearings, and any other parts of the council meetings,
32 such as stock assessments, that we had originally planned in the
33 previous grant, but couldn't be completed. As I have reported
34 to the council, we can use those funds to complete that work. I
35 will stop there and see what the committee thinks, Mr. Chair.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Dr. Simmons. If I could start out
38 with a question of my own, and what do you think is the
39 likelihood of this getting approved?

40
41 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I think it's pretty high for
42 changing a scope of work, and that's my understanding, versus a
43 reprogramming. We did talk about the potential of
44 reprogramming. Again, we really don't know, and we haven't done
45 this before. We did get a six-month extension after the no-cost
46 last time, and that was a year-and-a-half, and that was atypical
47 as well, and so we'll just have to try it and see.

1 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you. Dr. Mickle.

2
3 **DR. PAUL MICKLE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Dr. Simmons, those are
4 great ideas, and I appreciate the time you all spent being
5 efficient with the situation and looking at alternatives. I
6 think they're all great ideas, and they would provide a lot of
7 insight, especially with ecosystem and the efforts we've made in
8 the last few years, as well as the AP participation.

9
10 I want to bring up an idea and just see how the committee feels
11 at this point, and we can discuss it more at Full Council, but I
12 have brought up in the past, and even my predecessor, Dr. Lucas,
13 has brought up in the past of looking at potential situations of
14 doing an independent stock assessment, where we contract out --
15 It's a very simple procedure.

16
17 We put out an RFP, just like we talked about with other efforts,
18 and there are private organizations, and a lot of retired
19 professors, that are very good at this, and we could look at
20 maybe doing an external stock assessment, like some of the other
21 councils I've heard have done, and, also, I would like to see if
22 there's any interest with triggerfish.

23
24 We're going to get some information this week on triggerfish,
25 and the datasets at this point are all bottled up and ready to
26 push through a stock assessment, and so the data issues are not
27 there, and they don't even have to be included in the RFP. It
28 would just be a simple looking at a new way of doing something
29 and get a little bit of perspective of looking at triggerfish on
30 a parallel kind of view.

31
32 As we all know, we've had issues understanding triggerfish, with
33 the recruitment within the model, and we have a lot of
34 uncertainty in the model, and a lot of the anecdotal information
35 coming from the Gulf is not lining up with what the model is
36 saying, and so I just thought I would bring that up, and I want
37 to see if there's any interest in committee here today, and we
38 can discuss it further at Full Council, but I just wanted to
39 bring that up, because I brought it up in the past, and it just
40 seems like, when I did bring it up in the past, I was always
41 told that we just don't have the money to do that, and I just
42 feel obligated to bring it up now, because we're talking about
43 potential money we have to do something. Thank you.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Just as a point of clarification, Dr. Mickle,
46 is your idea to be in place of the proposed modified scope for
47 2021 or in addition to or what was your thought?

1 **DR. MICKLE:** Well, I think we would have to get into details,
2 but it would probably be a hybridization of some of those ideas.
3 I don't think a stock assessment costs a half-million dollars,
4 or I sure hope it doesn't, considering it's just running a
5 potential model, but we could dive into some ideas, some of the
6 ideas the staff came up with, as well as this. I really just
7 want to get a feel from the committee on interest level, and
8 then we can kind of dive into the logistics, so to speak.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Just to clarify, your proposal would be a
11 modification to the scope of work, and, in other words, you
12 would want to add this project and maybe adjust another project
13 that's on this current proposal?

14
15 **DR. MICKLE:** Yes, sir. I appreciate the clarification. That's
16 exactly what I propose, but for discussion's sake alone at this
17 point. Thank you.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you. Dr. Simmons, do you have any
20 comments on that?

21
22 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We can
23 certainly try to do that. It would require, in my
24 understanding, a reprogramming of the previous grant. These
25 items that we have proposed were within what we originally
26 requested in the no-cost, and so my suggestion would be, if the
27 council does want to pursue what Dr. Mickle is suggesting, is
28 that we do that with the 2020 funds or future funding in the
29 next five-year grant cycle.

30
31 I think our understanding, from talking to our grant
32 coordinator, is we're more likely to get approved to conduct
33 this work if it's something that we originally flagged in the
34 last grant and this is why we haven't been able to get it done,
35 X, Y, or Z.

36
37 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Dr. Simmons. Perhaps we can circle
38 back to Dr. Mickle's idea. We have a couple of other hands up,
39 which I would like to recognize before we do that. The first is
40 Ed Swindell.

41
42 **MR. SWINDELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will say that I'm
43 looking at the resource that we're not dealing with, that we
44 keep putting on the back-burner, and that's redfish, red drum.
45 I really believe that, with this \$500,000, we could finally get
46 some single-seine purse boat operations to sample at least some
47 of the offshore resources and determine the age of the fish that
48 are in this resource.

1
2 This is a sad thing that we're doing, from the fishery
3 management council perspective, that we're not doing anything.
4 We're not paying a bit of attention to a resource that's out
5 there for the good of the people of this nation. I think we
6 need to pay attention to it. Thank you. I would propose that
7 we take a good hard look at using this money to help us identify
8 what's in the resource of red drum. Thank you.
9

10 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Next, we have Chris Schieble.
11

12 **MR. CHRIS SCHIEBLE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to, I
13 guess, further substantiate Dr. Mickle's comments, as well as,
14 most recently, Ed's comments. I think that's a great idea,
15 especially looking back at the SEDAR report that we got this
16 morning, and you see this cascading effect of age and growth
17 data being delayed and coming in later, due to COVID effects on
18 the fisheries labs, and things are getting pushed back further
19 and further, and we don't know if there will be an end to that.
20 We don't know what effects that we may see from COVID going
21 through the rest of the year.
22

23 It could delay a lot of these stock assessments that we need to
24 get done, and perhaps devoting some funds to getting interim
25 stock assessments done in a different capacity would be a good
26 idea to look into, and I agree with Ed's statement that a red
27 drum stock assessment would seem to be kind of high on the
28 burner, if you will, and maybe it would be good if we could try
29 to get kind of a cost estimate, from maybe Clay or his group
30 over here, to see what it would take, cost-wise, to do a red
31 drum stock assessment that could be useful. That's all I had.
32

33 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you. Next, we have Dr. Bob Shipp.
34

35 **DR. SHIPP:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I totally support Paul's
36 idea. I think, especially the situation with triggerfish, there
37 seems to be so much disparity between observations and what
38 we're getting, as far as triggerfish are concerned, and I just
39 like the idea, and I would be fully supportive of further
40 discussion at Full Council on it. Thank you.
41

42 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Dr. Shipp. Next, we have Dr. Clay
43 Porch.
44

45 **DR. CLAY PORCH:** Thank you. With respect to the red drum purse
46 seine question, I think that's something we can definitely look
47 into. We put some numbers together, several years ago, in terms
48 of how many samples we would need, and I agree that using purse

1 seines would be the appropriate way to do it, since that's the
2 way it was done in the 1980s and 1990s, and so we would have a
3 good reference point, so long as we got a representative sample.
4

5 We have some numbers on what it would take, and what we could do
6 is try and look into how much it would cost to contract folks to
7 go out there and sample where we need sampling, and probably we
8 can get some good numbers from Sean Powers, because they did do
9 some of that, but just not at the scale that we need, and you
10 basically have to make sure that you get the whole northern
11 Gulf, and especially Louisiana, but we can look into that, and I
12 will make a note of this, because I agree that it would be great
13 to do that kind of work.
14

15 In terms of the alternative assessments, I don't have an issue
16 with that in principle, but I think we have to think a little
17 bit more about it, because what it involves is not just running
18 the stock assessment model. The greater part of it is
19 collecting and processing all the data, which gets quite
20 involved, and the other thing that I think we have to look into
21 is how are going to review it.
22

23 We don't want to have a situation where there is one group
24 conducting an assessment that doesn't get near as much review as
25 say a SEDAR stock assessment would get, and so I think those are
26 the two things that we have to consider very carefully if we
27 want to start going the route of contracting alternative
28 assessments.
29

30 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Dr. Porch. Next, we have Dr.
31 Frazer.
32

33 **DR. TOM FRAZER:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the comments
34 that were made by Paul and Phil and Ed, I guess, and even Bob,
35 with regard to gray trigger and red drum, but I want to
36 reiterate what Dr. Simmons had indicated, that the three
37 projects that were identified were already part of an existing
38 scope of work, and the likelihood of getting something approved
39 outside of that scope of work would essentially ensure that we
40 send those dollars back to the feds.
41

42 What is likely, or might be possible, is to think about those
43 two projects, after you get cost estimates, and use 2020 funds,
44 right, which we may have a surplus there to start to address
45 some of those issues, and so I just wanted to make clear that
46 I'm not opposed, and I think those are both good ideas, but I
47 just think that we need to think about what dollars we might use
48 to support them moving forward. That's all.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Good point, Dr. Frazer. Next, we have Dr.
3 Simmons.

4
5 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. He covered
6 most of the things that I wanted to say, but I would just
7 reiterate that, if this is not approved, then the money would go
8 back to the feds.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** I think where we need to end up, Dr. Simmons,
11 is that this carryover, second carryover, request -- You need a
12 motion to approve that from this committee, and then from the
13 Full Council, but, at the same time, we have an interesting idea
14 for a triggerfish and red drum assessment that could be done
15 with 2020 carryover funds, and is that correct?

16
17 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Yes. That's the way I understand
18 it, and so two separate kinds of pots of money, so to speak.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Okay. That sounds fine, and so, before we
21 adjourn this committee, we need to clarify those issues, and I
22 don't think we want the triggerfish and the red drum issues to
23 go away, but we need to put it in the proper bucket, because it
24 doesn't seem like the carryover proposal is the right bucket for
25 it to be in. We have another hand up from Leann Bosarge.

26
27 **MS. LEANN BOSARGE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wondered,
28 Carrie, if it's possible to have a Plan A and a Plan B on this,
29 where you can submit something that changes the scope for those
30 funds, and then have something in your back pocket that, if they
31 deny that, well, look, fine then, and here's our Plan B, and
32 here's what we'll do with that.

33
34 For me, the rationale would be we appreciate very much you
35 letting us carrying these funds over, and we need to carry them
36 over again, but please understand that this is two years out
37 from when we -- More than that, I guess, really, from when we
38 originally told you where these funds needed to be allocated,
39 and, unfortunately, the priorities facing the council have
40 changed since then, and we really would like to direct them in
41 this area, to address the issues that are affecting the council
42 currently. Is it possible to do something like that, have a
43 Plan A and a Plan B?

44
45 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Simmons.

46
47 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't
48 think it is for the carryover money. I think we're already

1 getting quite a luxury to be allowed to request to carry these
2 funds over again for potentially another year, and what we're
3 telling the Grants Management Division is that we were supposed
4 to do these things in the last five-year grant, but we were
5 unable to, due to COVID, or X, Y, and Z, and, if they do allow
6 this, we already have a very, very tight timeline to get this
7 accomplished, and so I don't think there's that luxury for the
8 carryover funds.

9
10 In the next award, in the 2020 award, I think you may have
11 additional flexibility there, as far as getting more research
12 dollars for the red drum and the gray triggerfish assessment
13 that was brought up.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** That's a good point, Dr. Simmons, because I
16 think Leann has a good idea about a Plan A and a Plan B, but
17 Plan B, for the triggerfish and red drum assessment, would be to
18 use the 2020 carryover funds, and so, in essence, we do have a
19 Plan B, but it's just not to utilize the no-cost extension
20 request for carryover funds from prior years, but it's to use
21 the 2020 carryover. Next, we have Dr. Mickle with another
22 question.

23
24 **DR. MICKLE:** Just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
25 appreciate everybody's input and this committee discussion. I
26 think it's brought up a lot of discussion that I really like to
27 see with what I brought up, and I think asking is certainly not
28 a -- There's no issue with asking NOAA, understanding, if we do
29 change the scope a little bit and look at these potential
30 alternatives, and we can most likely maybe move forward, but
31 there is a lot of logistics that I agree with Dr. Porch that we
32 need to discuss in the committee before we potentially move
33 forward on such an expensive endeavor, because we really need to
34 all understand the logistics of the --

35
36 I guess there won't be any data mining if we decide to move
37 forward, but there will be data packaging, on NOAA's part, and
38 releasing, which I don't think is an issue, but we'll have to
39 work through that, as well as the review, which Dr. Porch
40 brought up, which is very crucial, as we all know, and so we'll
41 have to definitely discuss those things. It's not an easy
42 thing, but I don't think we've ever had leftover money like
43 this, and so I just have to say that it's an exciting
44 conversation, just from my perspective, and so thank you.

45
46 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Dr. Mickle. Sooner or later, we
47 have to get to a motion, and it sounds like, and I'm not trying
48 to put words in anybody's mouth, but it sounds like we need a

1 motion to approve, or disapprove, the no-cost extension request,
2 based on the 2015 to 2019 activities, and then we also need to
3 decide how we want to address this triggerfish and red drum
4 assessment idea, and I don't know if that requires a motion, but
5 certainly we have a good opportunity with 2020 carryover funds
6 to do that.

7
8 Dr. Simmons, what's your pleasure on this? Would you like to
9 see a motion to approve the no-cost extension request for 2015
10 to 2019 activities as written and then deal with the triggerfish
11 and red drum issue separately or what? I am asking for your
12 input on how you would like for us to proceed.

13
14 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Yes, Mr. Chair, that would be my
15 suggestion. If you don't want to go with what staff has
16 proposed, we can just ask to carry the money over and see what
17 we can spend in the travel and previous meetings that we had
18 scheduled and not move forward with the contracts for the
19 ecosystem or the coral work and then take up the 2020 motion
20 separately.

21
22 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** That makes sense to me, but, ultimately, it's
23 up to a vote of the committee. Do I have a motion from a
24 committee member to approve the no-cost extension request based
25 on the 2015 to 2019 activities as written?

26
27 **DR. SHIPP:** I would make that motion.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Dr. Shipp. Do we have a second?

30
31 **MR. TROY WILLIAMSON:** I second that.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Mr. Williamson. Is there any
34 discussion on this motion? All those in favor of the motion say
35 aye. Before we do that, Dr. Frazer, as Chairman, would you like
36 to see a roll call vote on this, or how would you like to handle
37 this vote on the motion?

38
39 **DR. FRAZER:** I think I would start off, Phil, with is there any
40 opposition to the motion.

41
42 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** All right. That's the short stroke, and so
43 let's do that. **Is there any opposition to this motion? Hearing**
44 **none, the motion passes.**

45
46 Then I think we need to address the issue of the triggerfish and
47 red drum assessment concept, using an outside independent group,
48 and do we want a motion on that, or how would you like to

1 proceed with that, Dr. Simmons?

2
3 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Yes, Mr. Chair, and I think a
4 motion would be a good idea, and it would provide a little bit
5 more direction to staff.

6
7 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Mickle, would you be willing to propose a
8 motion to use 2020 carryover funds to have a triggerfish and red
9 drum stock assessment?

10
11 **DR. MICKLE:** Yes, I would. I think I'm going to word it as to
12 request staff that we request a change in scope for the 2020 no-
13 cost extension to --

14
15 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Mr. Chair.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Yes, ma'am.

18
19 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** I apologize for the confusion here.
20 This is our new award, and 2020 starts the new award, and so
21 we're not asking for an extension for this. It would just be
22 using 2020 funds.

23
24 **DR. MICKLE:** Thank you for the clarification, Dr. Simmons. All
25 right. Request staff to change the scope of the 2020 budget to
26 include --

27
28 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** I think we've lost you, Dr. Mickle.

29
30 **DR. MICKLE:** I'm sorry. I was getting a call, and my phone
31 couldn't handle the --

32
33 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Go ahead.

34
35 **DR. MICKLE:** I'm sorry. Okay. To request staff to use 2020
36 budget funds -- I'm sorry. I'm trying to write it down.
37 Request staff to provide guidance on using 2020 budget funds for
38 the intention of red drum independent offshore purse seine data
39 and an independent stock assessment on gray triggerfish. I'm
40 sorry. Let me take a shot at cleaning it up, and then everybody
41 else can help me.

42
43 To request staff to provide guidance on using 2020 budget funds
44 for the intention of red drum independent purse seine data
45 efforts, offshore purse seine, and then a question-mark. Purse
46 seine data. Okay. Get rid of that, and we'll have it.

47
48 The motion is to try to require two efforts, and, again, this is

1 just to have staff give us some guidance and to help us kind of
2 flesh out those things that Dr. Porch brought up, as well as
3 myself, and then it has Ed's comments and intention there, as
4 well as my own.

5
6 Again, one is to create an -- Both of them are to create RFPs,
7 one for purse seine and data for a red drum dataset, and then
8 the other is for gray triggerfish and an assessment, and I will
9 leave it at that, if anyone wants to modify or friendly amend
10 it, and please feel free.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Mickle, I don't necessarily want to add
13 anything, but I am just asking -- You have two assessments here,
14 and do you want to weight them, as far as importance, in case
15 budget funds are limited?

16
17 **DR. MICKLE:** I am really hoping that -- Maybe we should provide
18 more guidance to the staff, but I was hoping that staff would
19 provide some ballpark figures on both of these. One is creating
20 a data stream, right, the red drum offshore seine, and then the
21 other is a quantitative effort, and so they may be vastly
22 different in price, and we just don't -- I don't think we know
23 yet, and I think we're going to get some information, but,
24 again, they are very different, unless I misunderstood Mr.
25 Swindell's effort of acquiring a red drum dataset offshore seine
26 as well as executing an assessment, and I may have missed that.
27 Mr. Swindell, are you still there, and could you clarify? Were
28 your comments to the offshore seine and create data or to do
29 both create and do an assessment on red drum?

30
31 **MR. SWINDELL:** It would always be good to do both, but I don't
32 think there's enough money that's going to be carried over to do
33 the whole thing, and I was just looking to get things started,
34 and we can kind of go from there. It's just to do the ageing,
35 as I understand from Dr. Porch before, and it's that ageing of
36 this resource really needs to be done first, and so I'm prepared
37 to -- Let's do at least the ageing portion of it, and let's
38 gather the samples and see what we can get done. Then we can go
39 from there. We can do assessments at a later time.

40
41 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** We have a question --

42
43 **DR. MICKLE:** I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, and I should have asked for a
44 second, if we were going to get into discussion of this length,
45 and I apologize.

46
47 **MR. SWINDELL:** I second it, Mr. Chairman.

1 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you. We have a motion with a second
2 before the committee, and now I would like to open it up for
3 discussion, and the first hand up is J.D. Dugas.

4
5 **MR. J.D. DUGAS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question, and I
6 don't know if it should be directed to Dr. Mickler or Dr. Frazer,
7 but would this motion be cleaner if red drum and gray
8 triggerfish were separated? That's just a question. Should it
9 be two different motions?

10
11 **DR. MICKLER:** Is it okay if I address that, Mr. Chair?

12
13 **DR. FRAZER:** Go ahead, Paul.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Go ahead.

16
17 **DR. MICKLER:** Thank you. I feel like -- Is it clear enough to
18 the staff with our discussions prior to the motion, like price
19 points and SEDAR review efforts, to include in this guidance
20 that they're going to provide, as well as some of the price
21 points on the offshore sampling that Clay talked about?

22
23 I think it's all there, if it's clear to them. It's not all
24 there in the motion, and I think we don't need to give that much
25 guidance in the motion, but I think, from our discussion, I feel
26 like it's pretty clear and clean to the staff, but, if they feel
27 that it should be separated, I have no qualms with separating,
28 but I guess I will have to ask Dr. Simmons or the staff, or
29 Ryan, if he's around, to maybe chime in and see if this is clear
30 or cloudy.

31
32 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Dr. Mickler, I am not trying to put words in
33 your mouth, but I think the reason that J.D. was getting at is
34 there would probably be more universal support for a triggerfish
35 assessment, and there would be some concern about a red drum
36 assessment, and so separating them out would give people an
37 opportunity to weigh-in separately, and I think that's what he
38 was getting to, if I'm correct. Dr. Frazer, your hand is up.

39
40 **DR. FRAZER:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Again, I feel like the
41 direction to staff is pretty straightforward. Essentially, what
42 you're asking staff to do, for both of these particular
43 fisheries, is to gather the information that might be needed to
44 determine whether or not -- What it might take to conduct an
45 assessment for both of these, and it's not committing you to
46 doing one or the other, and so I think that staff feels pretty
47 comfortable moving forward with collecting that information and
48 getting some of the price point stuff that Paul alluded to, and

1 so I think we're in good shape, actually.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Thank you, Dr. Frazer. J.D. has another
4 question.

5
6 **MR. DUGAS:** I was just going to echo what Mr. Dyskow said. He
7 hit the nail on the head. Thank you.

8
9 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** Well, we have a motion with a second on the
10 floor. We don't have a substitute motion, nor do we have any
11 request for modifications to this motion, and so, barring that,
12 and having no further discussion, we're compelled to vote on
13 this motion as it stands. Dr. Frazer, are you in agreement with
14 that? You're our Roberts Rules of Order expert.

15
16 **DR. FRAZER:** I am. I think that this is a good time for a vote,
17 and, in the absence of any significant discussion, I would be
18 inclined to ask if there's any opposition to the motion, Phil.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** All right. I will do that. **Is there any**
21 **opposition to this motion, as proposed and seconded? Seeing**
22 **none, the motion passes.**

23
24 Dr. Simmons, do we have any other business? I don't believe we
25 have any on the agenda.

26
27 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** No, Mr. Chair.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN DYSKOW:** All right. If there's no other business, that
30 ends the Budget and Administrative Committee meeting. Thank
31 you.

32
33 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on October 26, 2020.)
34
35

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