

Administrative/Budget Committee: Action Schedule & Next Steps for Tab G

Agenda Item IV: Discussion of Advisory Panels Due for Reappointment in 2021 (Tab G, No. 4)

Timeline Status: Review and Provide Direction

Council Input and Next Steps: The three-year term cycles for the Reef Fish and Shrimp APs are currently up for review. The Committee should decide if it wants to keep the current membership or re-advertise for each of the APs. The Reef Fish AP has been convened three times during this term cycle. The Reef Fish AP was convened once in-person and once via webinar in 2019 and once via webinar in 2020. The Shrimp AP has been convened four times during this term cycle. The Shrimp AP was convened twice in-person in 2019; one of the meetings the Shrimp AP met jointly with the Coral SSC and AP. The Shrimp AP also met twice via webinar in 2020.

The Standing and Special SSCs are also up for re-appointment this year and the applications will be sent out in early April for appointments during the June 2021 Council meeting. Due to COVID-19, we have been unable to hold in-person meetings since mid-March 2020; the Committee may want to consider keeping the current members of the Reef Fish and Shrimp AP one more year. If the Committee decides to wait a year for reappointments of these APs, it should be noted that the Council is also scheduled to consider membership of the Coral, Data Collection, and Spiny Lobster APs in 2022.

The Committee should pass a motion directing staff to re-advertise for new members on either of the existing APs or keep the current membership. If the Committee decides to advertise for new AP members, the Council will review applicants and make preliminary selections at the April 2021 Council meeting. Then, at the June 2021 Council meeting the Council will review the fishery background results of selected individuals and make their final AP selections.

Agenda Item V: Review 2020 Budget and Expenditures (Tab G, No. 5)

Timeline Status: Information

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will provide an update on the funded 2020 budget compared to the actual costs incurred. This is informational, no action is required.

Agenda Item VI: Logistics and Estimated Costs of Conducting a Gulf-wide Fishery-Independent Offshore Abundance Study on Red Drum (Tab G, No. 6)

Timeline Status: Review and Provide Direction

Council Input and Next Steps: In October 2020, the Committee discussed the potential of the Council funding a Gulf-wide fishery-independent offshore abundance study on red drum. Staff will provide an overview presentation of estimated costs of the study by region and year. Based on the estimates in hand and the unspent travel funds in 2020, the Council could fund a portion of the red

drum study. However, it is unknown what the Council's final 2021 funding level will be and when travel will resume. In the first few years of a 5-year grant cycle, the Council typically carries over anywhere from \$99,000-\$550,000 in any one year. Although the amount of unspent travel funds in 2020 are high, it is unlikely that this amount of unspent dollars will remain in this category in 2021 and beyond as travel and in-person meetings resume. If the Council chooses to proceed with this effort, we would need to add any research activity to the budget; develop a request for proposals that is vetted by the SSC and experts; advertise for proposals; develop a review and selection process; and consider the cost benefit and management implications of project results. It may be practicable for the Council to consider selecting a one research or monitoring priority to fund throughout the 5-year grant cycle, at a lower funding level that could aid in the stock assessment or management advice.

Agenda Item VII: Logistics and Estimated Costs of Conducting an Independent Stock Assessment (i.e., outside SEDAR) Process for Gray Triggerfish (Tab G, No. 7)

Timeline Status: Review and Provide Direction

Council Input and Next Steps: In October 2020, the Committee discussed the potential of the Council conducting or funding an independent stock assessment for gray triggerfish. Staff will provide an overview presentation of estimated costs and logistics of funding this type of activity. If the Council would like to proceed with this activity we would need to add it to the budget; develop a request for proposals that is vetted by the SSC and experts; advertise for proposals; develop a review and selection process; and consider the cost benefit and management implications of project results.

In the first few years of a 5-year grant cycle, the Council typically carries over anywhere from \$99,000-\$550,000 in any one year. Although the amount of unspent travel funds in 2020 are high, it is unlikely that this amount of unspent dollars will remain in this category in 2021 and beyond as travel and in-person meetings resume. If the Council chooses to proceed with this effort, this activity may be funded with 2020 and or 2021 funds and can be included in the budget if approved. It may be practicable for the Council to consider selecting a one research or monitoring priority to fund throughout the 5-year grant cycle, at a lower funding level that could aid in the stock assessment or management advice.

Agenda Item VIII: Review of 2021 Projected Activities (Tab G, No. 8a) and Budget (Tab G, No. 8b)

Timeline Status: Information and Feedback

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff will provide a draft of the 2021 activities and budget. The Committee should provide feedback on the proposed activities and any additional activities the Council may want to fund from the 2020 or 2021 funding cycles. No motion to approve the 2021 budget is needed at this time because the Council has not received final 2021 funding.

Agenda Item VIIIc: Discussion of Council Funding Support for Southeast Regional Office Permit Software

Timeline Status: Review and Provide Direction

Council Input and Next Steps: Mr. Strelcheck from the Southeast Regional Office will provide an overview of the project at the permits office that he is seeking financial assistance from the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils. Due to the fact that the Councils cannot distribute funds to federal agencies, any funding the Council may choose to provide will need to be taken off the top of the federal Council grant before the funds are distributed. Thus, any decision to provide 2021 funding to the NMFS Southeast Regional Office for modifications to the permit software programs would need to be made during the January 2021 meeting. The Council has received approximately 40% of the 2021 funding to date.