

**Administrative / Budget Committee Report
January 27, 2025
General Joe Spraggins – Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda and August 2024 minutes (**Tab G, No. 1 & 2**) as written.

Review and Discussion of Proposed 2025 Draft Activities and Budget (Tab G, No. 4a and 4b)

Staff provided a draft list of activities proposed for 2025 and a draft budget based on potentially level funding. The draft 2025 budget was presented alongside the final funded 2024 budget. Staff noted that a few adjustments were made to the 2025 budget based on planned and known activities. Staff will bring the funded 2025 budget back to the Council for approval later in the year.

Update of 2020-2024 Administrative Award No Cost Extension Request (Tab G, No 5)

Staff presented a table summarizing the planned activities and budget for continuation in the 2020-2024 no cost extension. A committee member asked if no cost extension had been approved, which staff confirmed.

Update on Inflation Reduction Act Funding

Staff provided a verbal update on the status of the IRA funding. The initial funding of \$375,000 was released to the Councils in August 2024. Further funds were released in September and December for a final total of \$2,025,275.00. Due to the late release of funding based on the award date, the timeline and workplan are being adjusted. The timeline and deliverables will be updated in the proposal, along with a spend plan for the additional release of approximately \$120,000 in funds by the deadline in early March 2025 to NOAA Fisheries.

Review Advisory Panel Appointments for Coral, Data Collection, and Spiny Lobster (Tab G, No 7)

Staff reviewed the activity and history for the three Advisory Panels (AP) that are due for reappointment in 2025. A member noted that one of the Spiny Lobster members has retired. Another member offered to contact this person to see if they planned to continue to serve or would prefer to be replaced. A comment was made that it might not be worth the trouble of reappointing the membership of this AP since they meet very infrequently, and no meetings are planned this year. A member recommended that the Council forgo the reappointment process unless the retiring member chooses to leave. Another member suggested that readvertising and reappointing the members of these APs might bring in new participants and staff recalled that there was at least one interested fisherman that had requested to serve on the Spiny Lobster AP.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Council readvertise and repopulate the Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel.

Motion carried with no opposition.

The Committee recommends, and I so move, that the Council maintain the current membership of the Coral and Data Collection Advisory Panels.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Business

None was presented.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.