

**Administrative / Budget Committee Report
January 26, 2026
General Joe Spraggins – Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda and August 2025 minutes (**Tab G, No. 1 & 2**) as written.

Review and Discussion of Proposed 2026 Draft Activities and Budget (Tab G, No. 4a and 4b)

Staff provided a draft list of activities proposed for 2026 and a draft budget based on potentially level funding. The final funded 2025 budget was presented alongside the 2026 draft budget. Staff noted that a few adjustments were made to the 2026 budget based on planned activity changes and the funded 2026 budget will be brought to the Council for approval later in the year. A member of the committee asked why the budget for meetings decreased if the activities were still planned. Staff replied that these differences are due to some activities being attributable to different funding streams, also some meetings have been shortened or held virtually which decreases the costs. A member asked why no funds were budgeted for leave accounts contributions for new hires, staff stated this amount may be adjusted when the actual 2026 funding is known and staff are hired later in the year. Another member inquired if staff review the actual expenditures compared with budget from the prior year when projecting the adjustments to each budget line. Staff responded affirmatively.

Update of 2020-2024 Administrative Award No Cost Extension Request and Inflation Reduction Act Funding

Staff stated that the entire 2020-2024 administrative award had been expended, and final reports are in progress. The Inflation Reduction Act work is continuing generally on track with the workplan. The submission of a request to revise the activity may be considered in the future to account for the staffing change of a retiring staff person.

Review Advisory Panel Appointments for Red Drum, Coastal Migratory, Ad Hoc Red Snapper / Grouper-Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ), and Ad Hoc Charter For-Hire Data Collection (Tab G, No 6)

Staff provided the activity and history for the Advisory Panels (AP) that are due for reappointment in 2026 and the charge of the working groups. A member inquired if there were results from a meeting of the Red Drum AP in 2026. Staff noted that all APs except Data Collection met virtually in July to review the Executive Orders 14276 “Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness” and 14192 “Unleashing Prosperity through Deregulation.” The committee agreed to advertise and repopulate the Red Drum and Coastal Migratory Pelagics APs and maintain the two current Ad Hoc APs in 2026.

Other Business

None was presented.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.