

**Administrative Policy Committee Motions
Chair- Douglass Boyd, January 2015**

Update on AP & SSC Appointment Process (Tab G-4)

Staff reviewed the current structure of the Gulf Council SSC, indicating how it differs from other Councils. An integration of the 3 major SSCs (Standing, Ecosystem, and Socioeconomic) into a single SSC is expected to provide improved scientific advice to the Council.

Motion: To integrate the 3 SSCs, which currently total 35 members, into a single Standing SSC of 18 individuals with the following approximate multi-disciplinary structure:

**Not less than 7 stock assessment or quantitative biologists/ecologists,
3 ecosystem scientists,
3 economists,
3 quantitative anthropologists/sociologists,
1 environmentalist scientist, and
1 other scientist from one of the above disciplines or from some other field.**

Motion carried by voice vote

And, on behalf of the Committee, I so move.

Staff was asked to provide the Council with a similar breakdown of the scientists that currently serve on the Standing SSC.

The SSCs expressed some concern about the potential loss of existing socioeconomic expertise so staff suggested creation of a Special Socioeconomic SSC that could meet with the Standing SSC when needed, similar to the functioning of the other Special SSCs

Motion: Create a Special Socioeconomic SSC to be comprised of 2 economists and 2 anthropologists/sociologists.

Motion carried by voice vote

And, on behalf of the Committee, I so move.

Motion: To limit the size of the Special SSCs to no more than five members each.

Motion carried with no opposition

And, on behalf of the Committee, I so move.

Staff expressed that it would be helpful to separate the appointment of the APs and SSCs with the APs being appointed at the next Council meeting and the SSC appointed in June, especially since the SSC applicants have to provide a Statement of Financial Interest 45 days before they are appointed.

Motion: Postpone Selection of the SSC appointments until June, 2015 due to the 45-day lead time needed for SOFI's to be submitted and to reduce potential confusion and workload during the transition to staggered terms and the online application process.

Motion carried with no opposition

And, on behalf of the Committee, I so move.

Term Limits and Staggered Terms

There was considerable discussion about the utility of Term Limits and Staggered Terms as proposed by staff. Staff was requested to determine if the other Councils had similar measures for their APs so this discussion was postponed till the next Council meeting.

Staff noted that the future efforts of the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection AP are similar enough to our Standing Data Collection AP that consolidation of the two would be a reasonable way forward.

Application Process

Staff reviewed efforts to standardize the AP and SSC application process and to provide an online application process to minimize the potential for errors. No action was needed on this topic.

Proposed Updates to the Advisory Panel Structure

There was considerable discussion about the potential benefits and difficulties in establishing specific categories of stakeholders for each Advisory Panel. It was decided by Committee that no change was warranted in the current process for appointing people to the APs and no action was taken.

Review of Ad Hoc Advisory Panels

Motion: Discontinue the Private Recreational Data Collection AP and integrate function into the Data Collection AP.

Motion carried with no opposition

And, on behalf of the Committee, I so move.

The Committee considered the need for establishing sunset dates for the Ad Hoc APs but concluded it would be better to evaluate their need on an annual basis.

Motion: That in the first Council meeting of each year, the Council evaluate each Ad Hoc Advisory Panel, and if they deem the panel has completed its assignment, that the panel will be disbanded.

Motion carried with no opposition.

And, on behalf of the Committee, I so move.

In 2013 the Council did not appoint members to the State Habitat APs but did not formally eliminate them from our AP roster.

Motion: Eliminate the three State Habitat APs.

Motion carried with no opposition.

And, on behalf of the Committee, I so move.

Review of NMFS/NOAA Comments on 2012 SOPPs (Tab G-5)

Staff reviewed the comments provided by NMFS/NOAA on our existing SOPPs and noted there were no substantive comments that required Council decision on changing the SOPPs. It was

pointed out that we would respond to NMFS with acknowledgement of our review and incorporation of their suggestions, as well as our current efforts to revise our SOPPs again.

Mr. Chairman, that completes our Committee Report.