

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATIVE/BUDGET COMMITTEE

Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach, Alabama

JANUARY 25, 2016

**VOTING MEMBERS**

- Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- Martha Bademan (designee for Nick Wiley).....Florida
- John Greene.....Alabama
- Kelly Lucas (designee for Jamie Miller).....Mississippi
- Robin Riechers.....Texas
- David Walker.....Alabama

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

- Kevin Anson.....Alabama
- Doug Boyd.....Texas
- Jason Brand.....USCG
- Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- Myron Fischer (designee for Randy Pausina).....Louisiana
- Campo Matens.....Louisiana
- John Sanchez.....Florida
- Greg Stunz.....Texas
- Ed Swindell.....Louisiana

**STAFF**

- Steven Atran.....Senior Fishery Biologist
- Assane Diagne.....Economist
- John Froeschke.....Fishery Biologist/Statistician
- Doug Gregory.....Executive Director
- Beth Hager.....Financial Assistant/IT Coordinator
- Karen Hoak.....Administrative and Financial Assistant
- Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
- Charlene Ponce.....Public Information Officer
- Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- Carrie Simmons.....Deputy Director

**OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

- John Anderson.....FL
- Pam Anderson.....Panama City Beach, FL
- Billy Archer.....Panama City, FL
- Scott Bannon.....
- Steve Branstetter.....NMFS
- Eric Brazer.....Reef Fish Shareholder's Alliance
- J.P. Brooker.....Ocean Conservancy, Gulfport, FL

1 Mark Brown.....SAFMC  
2 Gary Bryant.....Gulf Shores, AL  
3 Jim Clements.....Carrabelle, FL  
4 Michael Drexler.....Ocean Conservancy, St. Petersburg, FL  
5 Traci Floyd.....MDMR, Biloxi, MS  
6 Troy Frady.....Lilian, AL  
7 Brad Gorst.....  
8 Chad Hanson.....Pew  
9 Bill Huth.....Pensacola, FL  
10 Joe Jewell.....MDMR, Biloxi, MS  
11 Robert E. Jones.....EDF  
12 Bill Kelly.....FKCFA, FL  
13 Kristen McConnell.....EDF  
14 Rusty Pittman.....MDMR, MS  
15 Bonnie Ponwith.....SEFSC  
16 Kellie Ralston.....American Sportfishing Association, FL  
17 Lance Robinson.....TX  
18 Katie Semon.....LA  
19 Clarence Seymour.....Ocean Springs, MS  
20 Bill Tucker.....Dunedin, FL  
21 Bob Zales, II.....Panama City, FL  
22 Jim Zurbrick.....Steinhatchee, FL

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Panel. [The motion carried on page 7.](#)

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1 The Administrative/Budget Committee of the Gulf of Mexico  
2 Fishery Management Council convened at the Perdido Beach Resort,  
3 Orange Beach, Alabama, Monday morning, January 25, 2016, and was  
4 called to order at 8:38 a.m. by Chairman Leann Bosarge.

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

10 **CHAIRMAN LEANN BOSARGE:** Let's call the Administrative and  
11 Budget Committee to order. Just a reminder, there is myself,  
12 Dr. Lucas, Dr. Dana, Johnny Greene, Robin and Lance, David  
13 Walker, and Martha on this particular committee.

14  
15 Your agenda is listed under Tab G, Number 1, if everybody could  
16 take a look at the agenda. Hopefully you have. Are there any  
17 additions or revisions to the agenda as presented? If not, can  
18 we get a motion to approved the agenda? Lance. Is there a  
19 second? All right. The agenda is approved.

20  
21 The committee minutes from our last meeting are Tab G, Number 2.  
22 Are there any revisions or edits to the minutes from our last  
23 meeting? Seeing none, the minutes are approved.

24  
25 Under our Action Guide and Next Steps, the first thing that  
26 we're going to go over today is our review of ad hoc APs. I  
27 believe that Mr. Gregory is going to lead us through that.

28  
29 **REVIEW OF AD HOC APS**  
30

31 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Okay. Thank you. On Tab G, Number  
32 4, we have the list of the ad hoc advisory panels that exist  
33 now. What the council decided last year was in January of each  
34 year we would review the ad hoc panels we have and decide if we  
35 wanted to continue them for another year. You can do this in a  
36 couple of different ways. You can make a motion for each one,  
37 or just say that unless we make a motion to discontinue one that  
38 they will continue for another year.

39  
40 In August of last year, the council also decided that they would  
41 consider whether or not they wanted to advertise any of these  
42 for reappointment, rather than automatically advertise them,  
43 like we had done in the past. I think the logic for that was,  
44 since these are ad hoc panels designed for a specific purpose  
45 and they are temporary in nature, that there may not be any  
46 reason to re-advertise them once they've been populated, because  
47 they're short-term in nature.

1 That is the situation. We have four ad hoc panels. The  
2 Artificial Substrate Panel was formed in 2012 and it's had two  
3 meetings since then. The last one was in March of 2014. The Ad  
4 Hoc Red Snapper Charter/For-Hire, the Red Snapper IFQ, and the  
5 Reef Fish Headboat all were formed last year.

6  
7 There was another ad hoc, but it was reconstituted last year,  
8 and so that's why the for-hire has the 2015 starting date. All  
9 but the Red Snapper IFQ have met at least once, and so what  
10 would be the committee's pleasure with this?

11  
12 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Okay, committee. We have our four ad hocs on  
13 the board. They're also in your materials. Are there any that  
14 we feel have served their purpose and it's time to disband? Do  
15 we want to continue all of them and do we need to re-advertise  
16 any of them for membership again in 2016? What is the  
17 committee's pleasure?

18  
19 **DR. KELLY LUCAS:** The Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate, it said two  
20 meetings, and is that just two meetings since 2012, since they  
21 were formed?

22  
23 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Yes.

24  
25 **DR. LUCAS:** Do you know when those meetings were?

26  
27 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** The last meeting was March of 2014.  
28 I do not know the first meeting. John, do you recall when the  
29 Artificial Substrate met the first time?

30  
31 **DR. JOHN FROESCHKE:** I want to say it was March two years ago.

32  
33 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** I think it was in 2013. John, can  
34 you summarize what the charge of the Artificial Substrate  
35 Committee was?

36  
37 **DR. FROESCHKE:** Not off the top of my head. The things that  
38 they worked on most recently were we were considering whether to  
39 designate artificial substrates as part of reef EFH. The other  
40 thing that they've worked on recently is the collaboration with  
41 the Shrimp APs, in order to find solutions for moving  
42 decommissioned platforms into permitted areas, such that we  
43 could consolidate and keep as much hard substrate in the Gulf as  
44 possible without infringing upon shrimp areas.

45  
46 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Do we see anything on the horizon that this  
47 group would be utilized for? I know they did that white paper  
48 and they finalized that and we went over it, I think, in Key

1 West, at our Key West meeting, which is an excellent tool for  
2 certain managers, but is there anything on the horizon where we  
3 would see this being a group we would want to keep together for  
4 the moment?

5  
6 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** We don't have anything planned from  
7 a staff standpoint. It can always be reconstituted if the  
8 committee and council decides to let it go for the time being.

9  
10 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Is there a consensus within our  
11 committee to either keep this Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate or  
12 disband it for the time being? Do we have a pleasure either  
13 way? It looks like we don't.

14  
15 All right. How about advertising for membership for those four  
16 ad hocs? Do we feel there is a need to re-advertise this for  
17 membership, or can we simply leave them as they are and let them  
18 meet again when needed?

19  
20 **DR. LUCAS:** I think, if we don't have a charge for them, there's  
21 no real purpose for advertising for new members. I also -- I  
22 guess, since it can be reconstituted at any time, I'm of the  
23 opinion that we can disband this and bring it up again if we  
24 need it, as we need it. **In fact, I will make a motion to**  
25 **disband the Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate Panel at this time.**

26  
27 **MR. LANCE ROBINSON:** Leann, I will second that.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. We have a motion by Dr. Lucas and  
30 it's seconded by Lance. Is there any discussion on this motion?  
31 Kelly, is that your motion as presented? All right. **Is there**  
32 **any opposition to the motion on the board? Seeing none, the**  
33 **motion passes.** Kelly, did you have a second motion, as far as  
34 re-advertising?

35  
36 **REVIEW OF AP APPOINTMENTS WITH A 2016 EXPIRATION**

37  
38 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Do you want me to move on to the  
39 next item? The next item is Tab G, Number 5, a Review of AP  
40 Appointments with a 2016 Expiration. As you may recall, last  
41 year the council decided to establish three-year staggered terms  
42 for the advisory panels.

43  
44 In order to get that started, we selected some to have a one-  
45 year term, others to have a two-year term, and then others to  
46 have a three-year term. The Coral, Data Collection, and Spiny  
47 Lobster Advisory Panels all had the one-year term. Coral has  
48 six members and it did meet one time last year. Data Collection

1 has eighteen members. They were formed in March of 2014. Spiny  
2 Lobster has six members.

3  
4 There was some discussion at the last council meeting that it  
5 might be worth advertising to try to get more members for the  
6 Coral and the Spiny Lobster APs, but those APs have always had a  
7 small number of people, Spiny Lobster because it's a very  
8 geographically-limited fishery and the people that are  
9 interested have applied, and the same with Coral.

10  
11 This is probably the most we've had on a Coral AP. We did have  
12 some confusion two years ago, because we have a Coral SSC and a  
13 Coral AP, and a lot of the AP people are also kind of scientists  
14 and so they applied to both. We got that straightened out. If  
15 I may, I would suggest that we just continue these advisory  
16 panels for another three years automatically without re-  
17 advertising, particularly since two of them haven't met at all,  
18 haven't had a chance to meet.

19  
20 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. Is there any feedback from the  
21 committee on Mr. Gregory's suggestion that we go ahead and  
22 continue these as are for an additional three years? I will say  
23 that I did reach out to a few stakeholders for the Spiny  
24 Lobster, and I had the same feedback that Doug Gregory just gave  
25 us, that they feel like that it's a good representative group  
26 and that they can work with it like it is and that's probably  
27 all the interested parties are there.

28  
29 I didn't reach out on Coral or Data Collection. I have been to  
30 one of the Coral meetings, and it seems to be a well-rounded  
31 group. There were some that had some fisheries background.  
32 There obviously were a lot of scientist types on there, but I  
33 think they worked well together and they seemed to work very  
34 well with the fishermen as well. As far as any other interested  
35 parties, I'm not sure, but the group does seem to function quite  
36 well. Is there anybody that feels that we may need to re-  
37 advertise any of these three or simply reappoint them? All  
38 right. Mr. Gregory, would you like to lead us through -- Did  
39 you have anything else you wanted to add to that?

40  
41 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** So I assume we would just not re-  
42 advertise for these this year and reappoint them for three  
43 years, and we will be on that three-year staggered term. Next  
44 year, we'll have advisory panels that have been in existence for  
45 two years, which was the normal cycle the council had for  
46 advisory panels, and so I wouldn't suggest that next year. We  
47 will move forward with that.

48





1 it's just a protocol thing, but it looks very optimistic that  
2 the states will be able to do background checks. They're  
3 checking with their attorneys about the electronic signatures,  
4 if that's acceptable. Steven has done a very good summary of  
5 the webinar, which is Tab G, Number 6.

6

7 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Martha.

8

9 **MS. MARTHA BADEMAN:** I asked our law enforcement about when and  
10 how many people they could kind of handle at one time, and I  
11 think the conversation that we had was that it would make more  
12 sense to screen the applicants that we're ready to move forward  
13 and put on the APs, the people that we're strongly considering  
14 appointing.

15

16 As to whether we should be screening just people from our home  
17 state or anybody that's potentially going to be on a panel, I  
18 think it would be anybody. I mean we have a lot of people that  
19 fish across state boundaries, and so it would make sense to  
20 screen everybody. If we round it down to that narrower group at  
21 the front end, then it hopefully wouldn't be a burden.

22

23 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Lucas.

24

25 **DR. LUCAS:** I agree with Martha. If you narrow it down and you  
26 only have the candidates who have been selected, then we would  
27 be happy to screen candidates as well. I know a lot of our  
28 people fish in Alabama and in Louisiana.

29

30 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Doug and then Mara.

31

32 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** When you say narrow it down, do you  
33 mean after they've been appointed, or are you suggesting a two-  
34 step process, where we have a closed session where we don't  
35 really appoint people, but select them, and then do the  
36 background check, and then, at the next council meeting, we have  
37 another closed session and appoint them? You said narrow it  
38 down, and I just need to know what you mean by that.

39

40 **MS. BADEMAN:** I mean I was thinking that we would select the  
41 people that we wanted to select for the AP, but that's  
42 interesting, whether or not we would advertise them right then  
43 and there. It might be beneficial to just wait, rather than  
44 have to advertise somebody and then have to pull back that -- It  
45 might be better if we could wait. I don't know what other  
46 people think about that.

47

48 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mara.

1  
2 **MS. MARA LEVY:** Actually, that's the point I was going to bring  
3 up, that just to think about the process, because if you  
4 actually appoint people and then do a background check and then  
5 determine that there's someone that you think wasn't  
6 appropriately appointed, then you're going to have to remove  
7 them, and just sort of the dynamic that that sets up if you go  
8 that way.  
9  
10 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Dr. Lucas.  
11  
12 **DR. LUCAS:** Doug, how long do you think that would add to the  
13 whole process, the selection process? Would it be a whole other  
14 council meeting? Would you go that distance?  
15  
16 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Yes.  
17  
18 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Lance.  
19  
20 **MR. LANCE ROBINSON:** Just to follow up with that scenario, Doug,  
21 you had a recommended candidate and you checked the background  
22 and it didn't work out. Now you've got to come back and  
23 identify another person and do that check as well and so does  
24 that add another meeting?  
25  
26 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** It could.  
27  
28 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mara.  
29  
30 **MS. LEVY:** Hopefully this wouldn't come up a lot, but, I mean,  
31 presumably, if it's just one individual, it doesn't mean you  
32 have to necessarily replace it, right? Like there's not a set  
33 number of people you have to have. I guess you could, but I  
34 would hope that it would be sort of far and few between that you  
35 would end up having to do that.  
36  
37 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Mr. Atran.  
38  
39 **MR. STEVEN ATRAN:** The Law Enforcement AP folks, who indicated  
40 how long it takes to do these checks, indicated it would take  
41 about a week to ten days, and so you couldn't get them during  
42 the council meeting where you make the appointments.  
43  
44 One thing I was going to suggest is that maybe you also name one  
45 or two auxiliary candidates, so that if you do get a member or  
46 two or doesn't pass the background checks, you will already have  
47 another name in place to replace them with.  
48

1 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Excellent suggestion, Mr. Atran. I think  
2 we've had some good ideas here, kind of out-of-the-box thinking  
3 for us. I like it. We could possibly have a closed session and  
4 have people appointed to APs contingent upon the background  
5 check, and then we'll have alternatives for those people if for  
6 some reason they don't pass the background check. This sounds  
7 pretty doable.

8  
9 I want to make sure that we do minimize the burden to the state  
10 management people for this process, and so it seems like having  
11 that group narrowed down, as Martha said, would be ideal.

12  
13 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** One other thing. We would keep  
14 that preliminary list completely secret and not notify anybody  
15 or let it out, because if it got out, it would defeat the  
16 purpose of upsetting somebody if they're later removed. We  
17 could do that in-house.

18  
19 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** Doug, just everybody then would be signing the  
20 release form when they submit their application, correct?

21  
22 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** Yes.

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** Doug, you said that we'll be working on that  
25 between now and our next council meeting, through Gulf States  
26 and also with Mara, I'm sure. All right. Anything else you  
27 want to add to that last agenda item, Doug?

28  
29 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREGORY:** No, Ma'am. I'm finished.

30  
31 **OTHER BUSINESS**

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN BOSARGE:** All right. That takes us to Other Business.  
34 Is there any other business for this committee? Seeing none,  
35 the committee is adjourned.

36  
37 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m., January 25,  
38 2016.)

39  
40 - - -