

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

Agenda Item IV: Review of Grant Expenditures and Anticipated Budget Activities and Funding (Tab G, No. 4a & 4b)

Timeline Status: Information only, no action is needed with regard to budget approval until we know what our funding will be beyond the April 28, 2017 expiration of the current federal budget continuing resolution.

Council Input and Next Steps: Review expenditures of first two years of our 5-year grant and preliminary estimate of 2017 budget. Once we get clarification from NMFS as to our funding level for 2017 we will bring the proposed 2017 budget back to the Council for approval. The Council should identify any needed changes to the proposed 2017 activities.

Agenda Item V: Approval of Changes to Check Writing Procedures (Tab G, No. 5)

Timeline Status: Current policy is to allow electronic signatures only for checks less than \$2000.

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff is requesting Council approval for a revision to the Council's check writing procedures to allow electronic signatures on checks less than \$5000.

Agenda Item VI: Review of H.R. 200 (MSA Reauthorization) Potential Impacts (Tab G, No. 6)

Timeline Status: H.R. 200 has been introduced into committee and has a number of items directly pertinent to the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA General Counsel has advised the Councils they could no longer indicate to Congress preferences for particular sections of a bill, but rather, should only comment on the potential impacts of proposed legislation.

Council Input and Next Steps: Staff has drafted a summary of potential impacts directly related to the Gulf of Mexico for Council consideration. Acceptance or revisions by the Council are needed to provide guidance to the Chair or Executive Director if called on by Congress to provide testimony. Additional review of H.R. 200 will continue with the June Council meeting.
