



New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

DATE: October 23, 2020
TO: Council
FROM: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Summary of October 22, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting

Attendance: The Executive Committee met via webinar, and the Executive Committee members attending were Dr. Quinn, Mr. Reid, Ms. Etrie, Ms. Griffin, McKenzie, and Mr. Alexander. Also attending were Mr. Nies and Mr. Kellogg from the Council staff, Dr. Simpkins, and Dr. Berkson from NMFS\NEFSC and Mr. Pentony and Mr. MacDonald from NMFS\GARFO. Other Council members and others also attended.

The Executive Committee considered the following agenda items.

1. Executive Director's 2021 Recommendations for Priorities

Mr. Nies reported on the results of Council input on the initial priorities that had been identified at the Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 Council meeting. Council members rated the priorities as high, medium, or low and the overall results were used by Mr. Nies to rank the priorities for the Council as a group. Mr. Nies explained that each priority was then assigned an estimate of the amount of staff time it would take and was grouped according to FMP or general type of activity. Using the staff time estimates and considering regulatory requirements, finishing ongoing Council actions and the Council priority ranking, Mr. Nies made preliminary priority recommendations for the committee to consider. Anticipated worktime on these priorities in 2021 was estimated to require a total of about 117 person-months of Council staff time exclusive of leave and professional development and including support requirements from GARFO, the Science Center and PDT members other than Council staff.

The Executive Committee recommendations will be summarized in a memo from the committee to the Council.

2. Other Business

The committee discussed and agreed that Council did not violate federal lobbying restrictions by buying media analysis services from Stove Boat Communications that are unrelated to any lobbying Stove Boat might undertake.

It also discussed whether Council members should respond to questionnaires provided on behalf of the Council to understand the views of the public. It agreed that Council members should refrain from participating in these because they were intended to provide input from individuals and organizations other than the Council.

3. Closed Session

The committee discussed an issue related to Council staff personnel.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.