

## **Consideration to Change Title and Appointment Process for Select APs**

### **Current Situation**

The Council has four APs and the SMZ Monitoring Team that include non-public government officials who are not appointed, but rather are members due to their position. The Law Enforcement AP is the best example because none of the members are appointed by the Council.

SEDAR - The purpose of the SEDAR AP is to allow scientific and industry volunteers who do not already serve on an AP or SSC an opportunity to serve in a SEDAR workshop. SEDAR AP member workshop participants are reimbursed travel expenses by SEDAR. Travel expenses incurred by other individuals the Council may want to send to a SEDAR workshop are paid by the Council.

Outreach and Education – Currently each Gulf State has a communications specialists (chosen by each State Director) serving on the AP. Staff would like to establish a similar arrangement among the four Gulf Sea Grant Programs.

Aquaculture AP – The Aquaculture AP does not currently exist but the Aquaculture FMP identifies membership composed of Council and NMFS biologists and social scientists, SSC members, and other state, university, or private scientists with expertise related to aquaculture, as needed. We plan to populate this AP after the final regulations are implemented.

SMZ Monitoring Team – The SMZ (Special Management Zone) Monitoring Team was established originally in 1993 (Amendment 5) and comprised of Council and NMFS staff, as well as others appointed by the Council. The Team last met in 2006.

### **Recommendations**

Staff requests approval to retitle the APs discussed above as Technical Committees, with appointments to the SEDAR, Outreach and Education, and the Aquaculture Technical Committees made jointly by the Executive Director and Council Chair.

For the SEDAR Technical Committee, staff would like the flexibility to appoint people on an as needed basis and to have state or federal scientists automatically qualified to serve as a de facto members.

The Law Enforcement Technical Committee membership is to remain status quo.

Staff recommends discontinuing the SMZ Monitoring Team and reconstituting it as a working group on an as-needed basis.