

F&A

REPORTS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The NPAFC's Committee on Finance and Administration, referred to as "F&A," oversees the management of the Commission and makes recommendations as needed. At the 2011 Annual Meeting, in addition to reviewing and approving a new budget, for example, F&A advised on the hiring procedure of a new Executive Director and recommended a new meeting schedule.

Historically, NPAFC has held its annual meetings in the fall. As F&A has considered ways to operate more efficiently, it has looked at the meetings of the Commission and its committees, as they are a significant portion of the budget. In particular, we have looked at whether any meetings could be conducted "virtually" and whether any meetings now held separately could be combined.

Out of this discussion, which has taken place over the last two years, F&A has recommended a new system, in which all of the meeting activities of the Commission will take place in the spring of the year. The enforcement meetings will be held independently of the others in late winter/early spring because that is the timeframe necessary to coordinate the year's enforcement plan. The two scientific meetings will be combined and held in conjunction with the new time of the Annual Meeting in spring. There will be a gradual transition to this system that will come fully into being in 2014.

This approach will bring several benefits. Combining the major committee meetings should enhance their effectiveness. Costs of travel for NPAFC Secretariat staff, interpreters, and for the delegations themselves will be less. Research data collected from the previous high-seas research season can be assimilated and presented at the subsequent meeting of Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics (CSRS). Scheduling conflicts among various regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) during the fall period will be reduced.

On another important topic, F&A, in conjunction with the heads of delegation, adopted a procedure and timetable to recruit and select a new Executive Director. In fact, applications are now being accepted. More information is available at the NPAFC website, www.npafc.org. (See announcement for applications, this issue.)



*F&A in session at the 19th Annual Meeting
NPAFC Secretariat photo*

Schedule for Transitioning from Fall to Spring Meetings

- 2012 March Enforcement Evaluation and Coordination Meeting (EECM) in Korea
- 2012 April/May Research Planning and Coordinating Meeting (RPCM; virtual)
- 2012 October Annual Meeting in Russia

- 2013 March Enforcement Committee (ENFO)/EECM (in a combined form) in Canada
- 2013 April (pending) CSRS/RPCM (in a combined form; time and place to be decided)
- 2013 October Annual Meeting (virtual)

- 2014 March EECM/ENFO (in a combined form) in Japan
- 2014 May Annual Meeting with combined CSRS/RPCM in the United States

The deadline for receipt of applications is June 1, 2012. The member countries will form a Selection Committee to review the applicants and recommend finalists. Then at the 2012 Annual Meeting, the Committee will interview finalists and the Commission will choose the new Executive Director.

Another recent focus of F&A has been the NPAFC performance review. The F&A was instrumental in urging the Commission to undertake the review promptly. When the review was delivered, F&A advised on organizing the Commission's consideration of its recommendations. Some of the recommendations, of course, dealt with subjects directly germane to F&A. Prior to 2011 Annual Meeting, then F&A Chairperson, Gerry Kristianson, performed a great service by eliciting input from the members on the F&A-related topics and preparing the committee's report for the "List of Action on the Prioritized Recommendations from the Performance Review Report." Some issues needed to be carried over for deeper consideration at the 2011 F&A meeting. Among them were the following:

- The committee has recommended creation of a Publication Policy working group, managed by the Deputy Director, to ensure that the various Commission publications are produced so as to take full advantage of electronic and online publishing.
- The Performance Review Panel recommended the Commission engage professional assistance to evaluate how the Commission can ensure maximum public relations gains. The committee concurred with the objective but asked me to perform this role instead because I deal in such matters professionally. I will be pleased to provide this service at no cost.

- The committee has recommended shortening the time for consideration of requests for observers at Commission meetings.

For full information on the Commission's List of Actions, the complete list is available at the NPAFC website: http://www.npafc.org/new/about_prr.html.

I look forward to making progress on initiatives in the coming months as F&A moves to implement these decisions.

Gary Smith
F&A Chairperson
NPAFC Representative of the United States



Gary T. Smith has a long interest in fisheries conservation. He serves on the boards of Long Live the Kings, a salmon conservation non-governmental organization, and the Seattle Aquarium Society. Among other accomplishments, Gary helped design the successful hatchery reform program, launched in 2000, to scientifically evaluate the 200 anadromous fish hatchery programs in western Washington's 100 state and tribal hatcheries. He also helped the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife develop its 21st Century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative to meet its responsibilities in recovering salmon and steelhead and provide sustainable fisheries. Gary is a partner in Smith & Stark, a public affairs consulting firm in Seattle. He also has served as Director of Policy and Communications in Washington, D.C. for one of Washington State's U.S. Senators and has held positions in state and local government and the private sector.

POSITION OPEN FOR THE NEXT NPAFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Commission is now seeking applications for the next NPAFC Executive Director. The expected starting date for the new Director will be July 1, 2013. The position's term is four years subject to the possibility of one additional term by mutual agreement between the Director and the Commission.

The Executive Director provides direction and leadership to the Secretariat towards achieving the Commission's goals and is responsible for managing the Commission's office and funds, conducting business on behalf of the Commission, arranging meetings, preparing budgets and forecasts, recording proceedings and decisions, handling correspondence, preparing annual reports, and appointing staff. The Director is responsible for implementing decisions and recommendations of the Commission. A complete description of the position, salary and benefits, qualifications and essential experience, and application procedures is available at the NPAFC website (see <http://www.npafc.org>).

The deadline for receipt of applications is June 1, 2012.