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APPROVED BY:
Beverly Sauls
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

FISHERIES INFORMATION NETWORK (FIN)
MINUTES

Tuesday March 15, 2022

~~Panama City Beach, FL~~ *Rockport, TX*
Panama City Beach, FL

Chair **Beverly Sauls** called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members, staff, and others were present either in person or via the webinar:

Members

- Steve Brown, FFWCC, St. Petersburg, FL
- Beverly Sauls, FFWCC, St. Petersburg, FL
- Marie Head, AMRD, Gulf Shores, AL
- Nicole Beckham, AMRD, Gulf Shores, AL
- Megan Fleming, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
- Darrin Stewart, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
- Nicole Smith, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
- Mike Harden, LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA
- Darrin Topping (proxy for Faye Grubbs), TPWD, Rockport, TX
- Justin Esslinger, TPWD, Rockport, TX
- Richard Cody, NOAA/ NMFS, Silver Spring, MD
- Jessica Stephen, NOAA/SERO, St. Petersburg, FL
- Ken Brennan, NOAA/SEFSC, Beaufort, NC
- Alan Lowther, NOAA/SEFSC, Miami, FL
- Daniel Matos, PRDNER, Mayaguez, PR
- Lisa Hollensead, GMFMC, Tampa, FL

Staff

- David Donaldson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
- Gregg Bray, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
- Donna Bellais, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
- Joe Ferrer, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
- Doug Snyder, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
- Deanna Valentine, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
- Charlie Robertson, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS
- James Ballard, GSMFC, Ocean Springs, MS

Others

- Rick Burris, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
- Traci Floyd, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
- Stephanie Freed, FLFWC, Panama City, FL
- James Swarthout, ALDCNR, Gulf Shores, AL
- Allan Brown, USFWS, Atlanta, GA
- Jason Saucier, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
- Ted Switzer, FLFWC, St. Petersburg, FL
- Matt Hill, MDMR, Biloxi, MS
- Bud Miller, Fish and Game Scales, FL
- Bob Zales II, Panama City, FL
- Andrew Petersen, Bluefin Data, New Orleans, LA
- Trevor Moncrief, MDMR, Biloxi, MS

Approval of Agenda

N. Beckham moved to approve the amended agenda as written. **N. Smith** seconded.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Fisheries Information Network (FIN) meeting held virtually on July 13-14, 2021 were approved as presented.

Discussion of GulfFIN Storage and Dissemination of State Survey Data

G Bray discussed that federal partners have expressed a desire to access state survey data along with survey design and implementation documentation in one location and have recommended the GulfFIN Data Management System as a preferred location. Currently, GulfFIN warehouses Texas and Louisiana recreational data and makes that available to NOAA Fisheries partners. **G. Bray** asked about the willingness of Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi to provide their raw and estimate state survey data through GulfFIN. Florida and Alabama were not opposed to the idea of providing their data but Mississippi was still evaluating their willingness amongst program management staff. It was pointed out by Florida staff that there are multiple uses of state survey data and understanding how to properly utilize state survey data in specific analyses requires assistance from state program managers. **G. Bray** suggested that a short term need of warehousing state data using existing state database formats does appear to fit a need for federal partners that already have processes in place to analyze state data as it is currently being delivered. The longer-term objective would be to develop a standardized database with input from all pertinent partners that could house all of the state survey raw data and estimates for use in science and management. After considerable discussion regarding the complexity of this topic, the committee decided to create a workgroup of state, federal, council and commission staff to determine the best path forward to make data more accessible to federal partners. Commission staff will be seeking partner participants to develop this workgroup in the coming weeks and will hold an initial virtual meeting as soon as possible.

Discussion of Review/Update of MRIP Regional Implementation Plan

G Bray stated that GulfFIN submitted their initial MRIP Regional Implementation Plan in 2017 and we have been requested to review and update our plan. The MRIP Regional Implementation Plan is developed to highlight regional needs in the Gulf of Mexico that would produce better data for regional fishery management and science while still working within the goals of the national MRIP Implementation Plan. Richard Cody discussed the usefulness in using regional plans to develop their national MRIP Implementation Plan and helps them in seeking funding assistance from Congress to meet regional priorities. The Committee spent some time identifying new priorities that should be a part of this revised plan. Priorities identified included a redesign of biological sampling methodologies, continued research on differences between state and federal recreational surveys, better coordination of recreational surveys in our region to help ensure compatibility between surveys, and pilot tests to attempt to improve recreational survey discard data. This review and update will take most of the year to complete and **G. Bray** suggested starting with the GulfFIN Recreational Technical Workgroup to create the first draft before asking the GulfFIN Committee members to review and provide comments.

MRIP Update

R. Cody discussed there are no planned MRIP general survey changes for 2023. NOAA Fisheries is planning a license sensitivity study as part of the Fishing Effort Survey (FES) and **G. Bray** forwarded the details on that out to committee members via email. NOAA Fisheries is revisiting their recreational data standards policy possibly providing more detailed guidance. NOAA Fisheries is also developing a response to the NAS review of in-season monitoring and wanted to thank all the partners that provided feedback under short time schedules. NOAA Fisheries is also

revisiting their 2020 imputed recreational estimates now that 2021 estimates have been produced. Having estimates from both 2019 and 2021 will help the imputation process. R. Cody provided some feedback from the recent Gulf Transition Team meeting. He stated that MRIP consultants have some additional questions regarding state surveys and will be sending those out via Gulf Commission staff soon. He also asked the states to provide updated questionnaires if any surveys have had recent modifications. R. Cody stated that there is still a desire to have support from the states on the Communications and Education Team (CET) that supports the outreach coming from the Gulf Transition Team process. NOAA Fisheries is waiting on the final report from Paul Rago and will be working to put more detail in to the actual Transition Plan for the Transition Team to review. **G. Bray** led a discussion regarding the feasibility of increasing APAIS sample sizes in Alabama and Mississippi. Increased Congressional funding was provided in 2021 to support increased sampling to improve precision but currently that funding has been used to stabilize shortfalls in funding for all states and then increase sampling for APAIS in Florida. Both MDMR and ALDCNR committee members stated the ability to add FTEs and the necessary space to house them is unavailable so having more funding to support that is not the primary issue. Both states also expressed that their sampling schedules for the higher activity waves is full and there only possible room for additional APAIS assignments would be weekdays which come with much lower observed fishing effort. R. Cody explained that having more sample on weekdays still could help some of the low sample size issues the small states are seeing and NOAA Fisheries could help optimize the draws to some degree by shifting allocation in different waves or modes. No decision was made on this issue and there needs to be a continued discussion regarding methods for improving precision and reducing variability in estimates for small states.

Developing Detailed Specifications for Remaining VESL Development

G. Bray mentioned there has been confusion with what Bluefin Data is responsible for in the development of VESL as there have not been any detailed itemized development tasks in the contract between GulfFIN and Bluefin Data. **G. Bray** stated GulfFIN is using a different business model moving forward, with a certain amount of money for development and a certain amount of money for support. Bluefin Data will bill GSMFC based on the development hours they expend and support will be billed on a monthly flat rate. **G. Bray** mentioned this year's goal is to have the baseline of VESL deployed in all Gulf states and the funding to support this is available. **G. Bray** stated once VESL is deployed for state and federal reporting requirements we should be developing a detailed specifications document for any additional development needs. **D. Topping** stated TX has a need for development of an oyster aquaculture specific form as the current form would require modifications to include additional fields. **D. Topping** mentioned MS developed a similar form and has shared the format with TPWD. **M. Harden** stated LA is interested in the card reader technology developed for Florida. **J. Wilson** mentioned lessons learned in transitioning to VESL from PC Trip Tickets by any of the GulfFIN partners should be shared to the rest of the partners. **S. Brown** stated Florida has a need for a priority species list or a favorites list in VESL for the tropical ornamental industry. **A. Petersen** mentioned any new additions to the VESL application could be used by all states with the capability to be turned on or off for each respective state.

Gulf Conversion Factor Research Update

D. Bellais stated the Commercial Technical Work Group met virtually in February 2022 to give the state partners working on the conversion factor project an opportunity to ask questions, provide a program update, and to standardize the data collection as much as possible across states. **D. Bellais** mentioned a standardized data sheet for sample collection was disseminated for use by the group. **D. Topping** stated a record ID column needs to be added to the data sheet for quality control during the project. **D. Topping** asked if state partners could share the make and model of scales they are using and also asked about deciding on whether 2 or 3 digits past the decimal should

be used in weight measurements. **S. Brown** stated the precision in the past has been 2 digits and should stay 2 digits. **G. Bray** mentioned states that need an extension to their sub-awards could potentially extend out to December 31, 2024 with proper justification. **B. Sauls** mentioned a presentation on the findings of this project at the next FIN Committee meeting would be beneficial. **D. Topping** also suggested having the Comtech Workgroup convene on a conference call to resolve and make a final decision on the shrimp conversion factors. **D. Bellais** will reconvene the ComTech workgroup to finalize the shrimp conversion factor use decisions.

Update on GulfFIN Oracle Cloud Transition

G. Bray explained that GSMFC is working to transition their Oracle databases from a local server at GSMFC to an Oracle Autonomous Cloud server. Work on the non-confidential side has started. The SEFHIER database is up and ready to go and staff are waiting on a revised dockside validation production application that will complete the transition to the cloud. The MRIP APAIS, GulfFIN Biological, and Public use warehouse all have some final development needs that are ongoing. GSMFC IT staff are planning to have all non-confidential databases transitioned to the cloud by July 1, 2022. **G. Bray** stated that discussions need to be started to get approval to move all confidential databases as well. Some states mentioned they have already moved all of their confidential data to the cloud and our transition does not cause any concern. Other states require more details on the specifications regarding the Oracle cloud. **G. Bray** stated that Oracle provided a large amount of technical specifications regarding their cloud storage system and he would make that available to all state and federal partners after the committee meeting. Then if partners have more specific questions we would convene a call of pertinent partners to have detailed discussions. GSMFC IT staff are hoping to have confidential datasets migrated to the cloud on or before January 1, 2023. GSMFC staff will keep the committee informed as progress is made in this transition.

Presentation on Return em Right Project

C. Robertson stated the Return 'Em Right project is an 8-year Gulf wide project with funding through the Deep-Water Horizon settlement. Some of the goals and objectives of this project are to reduce post-release mortality of injured reef fish species, increase the health of fisheries, measure prevalence of use and trends of descender devices, and validate fishing mortality rates and effectiveness of release treatments. **C. Robertson** mentioned there are several research studies funded through this project. This research will look at ways to reduce post-release mortality, increasing the health of injured reef species fisheries, and improving overall angler experiences with reef fishing by providing tools and training on how to properly release reef fish that maximizes their ability to survive. **C. Robertson** also discussed field monitoring efforts associated with this project. These monitoring efforts include the assessing rates of use for the fish descending devices (FDD) in the recreational sector and collection of discard data through the at-sea observer programs. This project hopes to partner with state and federal recreational surveys that collect data on reef fish. **C. Robertson** stated outreach and education is a big part of this project with goals of promoting best release practices focusing on FDDs, increase anglers' knowledge and awareness, and communicate results with the public. **C. Robertson** mentioned there are descending devices available for distribution to the federal for-hire sector and the private recreational sector after completing an education module. **C. Robertson** stated the next steps to the project would be to complete a review of the human dimension survey baseline report, have RFPs in place for 1 or 2 more collaborative studies, and launch phase II with the education module, device distribution, and expand the outreach in the Gulf. **B. Sauls** mentioned the Southwick report from the human dimensions survey would be useful for the upcoming SEDAR 74 Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Data Workshop in early May, especially for the discard mortality working group.

State Managed Species for Bycatch Monitoring

The committee discussed a request from the Gulf Council SSC to look at Shrimp Observer Bycatch data and identify priority species that state stock assessors could benefit from having timely access to catch estimates. **T. Moncrief** stated the Gulf SSC recently became aware of these bycatch numbers from a paper by Scott-Denton et. al and recognized the large bycatch estimates could be impact state stock assessment results. There was also concern that some unspecified groups are reported as opposed to individual species. After some discussion amongst committee members the committee made the following motion:

MOTION: GulfFIN recommends that NOAA Fisheries SEFSC verify bycatch of state managed priority species by the shrimp observer bycatch program including blue crab, spotted seatrout, red drum, black drum, and southern flounder and make those data readily available to state stock assessors.

The motion passed with no opposition. **A. Lowther** from NOAA Fisheries SEFSC followed up with SEFSC staff about this motion and they suggested that summary level tables could possibly be provided that would not cause confidentiality issues but further discussions would be needed.

SEFHIER Program Update

J. Stephen provided a presentation on the progress of SEFHIER implementation. The captain electronic logbook reporting component was implemented in January of 2021 and SERO staff are working to improve compliance as some permitted captains have yet to enroll in the program. The Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) component is scheduled to be implemented in March 2022. The dockside validation survey component was implemented in October 2021 and most states have started field sampling efforts. NOAA Fisheries is using sampling draws run by MRIP for Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, and work is ongoing to improve the site selection process to ensure only sites with federally permitted vessels are being selected. SERO staff, with assistance from LDWF staff, run the Louisiana draws and Texas sends their own draws to GSMFC. **J. Stephen** explained that participating in the dockside validation survey is mandatory for federally permitted for-hire captains. Next steps include reviewing validation data, analyzing landing locations, and adjusting the survey design as staff receive additional feedback from state partners. SEFHIER program staff are also exploring changes to when vessels are required to make trip declarations, streamlining the declaration process for dual permit holders, updating their frequently asked questions page, an analysis of the VMS reimbursement fund, and finalizing a proposed exemption for VMS equipment failure. **N. Smith** mentioned field surveys are increasing in Louisiana and they plan to send some feedback to SEFHIER staff regarding survey observations. She mentioned some captains are not easily providing permit numbers to survey biologists. Most of the activity is occurring around Venice, LA but she hopes activity will pick up in Grand Isle, LA soon. **M. Fleming** asked about the large number of zero intercept assignments completed so far. **J. Stephen** stated having to rely on MRIP site pressures for the initial draw process has resulted in selection of some sites that lack federally permitted for-hire vessels. **J. Stephen** stated some states are now providing lists of sites where federally permitted vessels occur and they can use that information to help improve the efficiency of the site selection process. **M. Fleming** also asked about the need to stay on site for 6 hours as prescribed in the survey procedures if samplers can confirm that no additional trips are being taken by the federally permitted fleet at a particular site. **J. Stephen** said no final decision has been made but she would talk with staff to come to a decision.

State/Federal Partner Updates on FIN Related Activities

Each state provided an update on fishery dependent related issues that are currently important for their state.

Florida Updates

B. Sauls stated Florida received IJF funding from GSMFC in 2021 to accomplish a recreational scallop pilot survey on the Gulf Coast. It was a successful survey and there was enough funding to administer the survey again in 2022. The survey involved an add-on to their State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS) effort survey. They were able to quantify scallop fishing effort and coupled that with some field intercept work. Florida is participating in the SEDAR 74 red snapper assessment workshop. Florida is providing a working paper in collaboration with Alabama and Mississippi to provide some better information on recreational discard mortality. That workshop is the first week of May in Gulfport, MS. Florida is also submitting a pre-proposal for the 2023 NOAA Fisheries FIS RFP in hopes of creating an electronic application to help field staff with fish identification. **S. Brown** stated Florida hired staff to participate in increased sampling of IJF species on the Gulf Coast. Florida field staff for SEFHIER are collecting dockside validation surveys and project management staff are working closely with SERO staff to make positive improvements. **S. Brown** mentioned the southeast headboat survey has resumed field sampling by Florida staff as of July 2021 and normal sampling activities are being completed.

Alabama Updates

N. Beckham stated ALDCNR has decided to start transitioning to VESL for their trip ticket reporting program. They hope this will reduce the number of errors they receive from trip ticket data and will be looking for assistance from Florida and Texas who are closer to full implementation. Alabama has already collected over half of their red snapper goal for their commercial conversion factor research. She stated that the grouper goal may be difficult to obtain because grouper will be hard to find opportunistically. They really only have 1 angler that has volunteered to assist with grouper submissions. **N. Beckham** introduced James Swarhout as new staff that is being trained to manage the daily aspects of trip ticket data collections. **M. Head** stated the transition to electronic data collection has made good improvements to quality control and productivity. She was appreciative of all the help from Commission staff. Alabama will be adding a new recreational sampling site this month. The new site has 200 boat and trailer slips and maybe unable to be sampled by one sampler. **M. Head** is adding some temporary summer help to staff to accomplish sampling during the busy summer months seeing that there are 3 field surveys to cover in Alabama. She stated she has been working with SERO staff to validate the location of federally permitted for-hire vessels to improve the SEFHIER site selection process. Alabama just started their Snapper Check assignments in March for gray triggerfish and they have added fish descender device questions and shark depredation questions for 2022. A new manager in Dauphin Island is coordinating all aspects of recreational biological sampling in Alabama. **L. Hollensead** asked what dolphin and shark depredation questions ALDCNR were asking. **M. Head** stated she would share that questionnaire with Hollensead after the meeting.

Mississippi Updates

D. Stewart stated they have been happy with their transition to VESL and they have seen significant improvement in the data quality being transmitted from dealer reports. He stated they have implemented a large amount of filtering and quality control so it is much harder for dealers to make mistakes in data entry. He mentioned that MDMR has developed a mobile application for their off-bottom aquaculture industry and are also working on a live bait reporting tool. Both reporting systems will be integrated into VESL. Mississippi has some proposed changes for their spotted seatrout endorsement under a public comment period right now. They are also in the process of digitizing their historical paper trip tickets. They are still working on a long term goal of reworking their license system. **M. Fleming** stated MDMR staff are collecting MRIP surveys but fishing has been slow to start 2022. She stated that they are struggling with having enough field staff to meet their survey needs so they are working to hire more contract staff. She also mentioned staff salaries might be going up which would have implications on future MRIP and SEFHIER budgets. She stated several recreational sites are under repair from storms that last few

years and they continue to monitor that restoration progress and will reactivate them when appropriate. Some of their larger charter harbors that were damaged have displaced for-hire vessels and staff have need to track down where boats are now operating from. **M. Fleming** mentioned no SEFHIER surveys were drawn in January and February do to no fishing effort but surveys will get started in March 2022.

Louisiana Updates

N. Smith stated LA Creel is operating well but Louisiana took a hard hit from Hurricane Ida in 2021. They were unable to complete 89 field assignments due to severe damage in hurricane impact areas. Their CSA office in Houma/Terrebonne area was closed for a month. Grand Isle was also severely impacted and while fishing is picking up there again the effort is still much lower than pre-hurricane levels. All 2021 biological data has been processed and delivered to GSMFC but collection numbers are down because of the impacts of Hurricane Ida. **N. Smith** asked about the timeline for holding another otolith processors meeting as they have several new biologists that could benefit from that training session. **G. Bray** stated we are just waiting for travel restrictions to be lifted for NOAA Fisheries staff so a productive meeting including all state and federal partners can be accomplished. The hope is to restart the processors meetings in May/June 2022. She stated SEFHIER sampling is going well and most of the activity currently is coming from the Venice region. They will keep SERO and Commission staff aware of any issues they are seeing as more surveys are completed. **N. Smith** stated LA Creel field staff also use electronic tablets for their survey and they just recently modified their application. They are also updating their offshore landing permit website to make it more mobile friendly. **M. Harden** stated LDWF is continuing to quantify the impacts of Hurricane Ida to their commercial docks and commercial fishing fleet. Staff have been dealing with some hardware and software issues that impacts their paper trip ticket scanning process. They are working with vendors to hopefully come up with a process that allows them the ability to manage all aspects of scanning quality control. December 2021 Trip Ticket data was transmitted to GSMFC recently and they have developed a new export process that will allow staff to provide data updates more efficiently. They have integrated their new commercial licenses into sales. LDWF staff are working on VESL development with Bluefin Data. They look forward to seeing new development updates soon. LDWF is also interested in the swipe card/bar code scanner technology developed by FLFWC and Bluefin Data. LDWF is also exploring the option of having commercial anglers report landings as opposed to commercial dealers. They are working on a test program for that concept and should be launching it in the coming months with the oyster industry.

Texas Updates

J. Esslinger stated TPWD has been working on the federal reporting needs to complete VESL development. Work is finishing up on the area, gear, and species tables. He stated approximately 65% of their dealers are reporting through VESL but they want to get their few federal dealers on VESL soon as well. He stated VESL is working well for providing data cleaner than the historical PC Trip Ticket system.

NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology Updates

R. Cody stated NOAA Fisheries FIS RFP had an April 8th deadline for all pre-proposals. The full proposals will be due on June 24th. He also mentioned Fisheries of the United States is migrating to a new format which will focus on highlights with links to all the tables and content that were previously available through the old hard copy. NOAA Fisheries is in the final internal review process and hopes to have the 2021 edition out in the next few weeks.

NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office

J. Stephen stated SERO have migrated their federal permit system to a cloud server. Some fishermen are experiencing difficulties with that transition but they will now be able to submit their permit applications online.

NOAA Fisheries SEFSC Updates

K. Brennan stated SEFSC has been assisting with the MRIP Transition Team work. The headboat survey is going through the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) process to receive approval to add two additional fields to the headboat survey to collect the number of fish descended and the number of fish vented. This will help increase our understanding of the use and effectiveness of barotrauma reduction devices. It will also help increase understanding of how reducing barotrauma helps reduce release mortality rates. SEFSC staff have also provided feedback on the National Academy review of in-season monitoring report to Office of Science and Technology staff and will continue to provide feedback as the final report is developed. **A. Lowther** stated SEFSC are now using only trip ticket data to estimate shrimp landings. The need for timely data access is essential to create the monthly shrimp landings report. They have added an additional month of time to produce the report with the hope that states can provide shrimp trip ticket landings within 60 days of the month being reported. The shrimp effort data is still being compiled from data on SD cards mailed to GSMFC that are extracted from the effort tracking hardware on the vessels. **A. Lowther** stated that process is working but they are noticing decreased participation from the fishing community. SEFSC staff continue to remind fishermen but they are only receiving about two-thirds of the number of cards returned that they expect. They are not sure how that will impact the 2021 effort estimates. SEFSC staff are also trying to obtain a better understanding of the historical computational programs that generate the shrimp effort estimates. SEFSC staff are trying to rebuild that code to make the process simpler and easier to manage. Unfortunately, staff are unclear how shrimp effort data will be collected in the future which makes building a new estimation process challenging.

Gulf Council Updates

L. Hollensead discussed the next Gulf Council meeting is April 4-7 in Gulf Shores, AL and will be a hybrid meeting of in-person and virtual attendees. The Council will be holding a discussion of shrimp data collection issues and will be having a Shrimp Advisory Panel meeting on March 29th that will help with the Gulf Council shrimp discussions. The Council will discuss the SSC recommendations for OFL and ABC for red snapper. There will be a discussion of the gag grouper interim rule, the SRFS calibration and interim analysis during reef fish committee. The SEFHIER team will update the Council on program progress and the Council will examine a framework action to allow for an exemption if VMS units have a hardware failure. This exemption would allow for fishing trips to continue in the event of a short-term hardware failure. They will also receive an update from the recent MRIP Transition Team workshop.

Discussion of FIN Funding Issues

BIO/Headboat funding

G. Bray provided an update on the status of biological sampling and headboat port sampling funding. Biological sampling has funding in place through December 31, 2022 but the final 16 months are currently projected to operate at a funding shortfall. No funds have yet been obtained to support 2023 and beyond. Headboat port sampling activities are funded through December 31, 2023.

SEFHIER funding

G. Bray provided an update on the status of funding to support the SEFHIER dockside validation survey that the Gulf states and Commission staff are assisting to implement with NOAA Fisheries. GSMFC received \$1.5M in 2020 to support start-up costs and 2021 implementation costs. Survey

implementation was delayed for a number of reasons and is now projected to start on September 1, 2021. The cost savings from the later start date created significant carry-over that will be applied to 2022 sampling efforts. **G. Bray** explained this was beneficial because Congress cut the available funding for 2022 from the original budgeted amount. Congress is providing \$450k in new money for 2022. Based on projected budgets from state partners, we should be able to fully support the validation survey by utilizing the 2021 carry-over coupled with the 2022 new funding. If budgets are accurate, that should result in approximately \$300k of carry-over to be used in the 2023 sampling year.

2023 FIN Funding Priorities

Committee members were provided with a list of items for funding consideration in 2023. Items were categorized as ongoing work or potential new work to be considered for available funding. The committee was tasked with identifying high priority jobs that will be forwarded to the State/Federal Fishery Management Committee for their review at the October 2022 meeting. At that time, they will decide which items will be included in the 2023 FIN Cooperative Agreement.

After considerable discussion regarding 2023 FIN funding priorities, **N. Smith made a motion to include all ongoing activities as high priority. M. Fleming seconded and motion passed with no opposition.** All items listed as high priority will require budgets and statements of work to be delivered to **G. Bray** by August 31, 2022.

Ongoing

- H - Coordination and Administration of FIN Activities
- H - Collecting, Managing and Disseminating Marine Recreational Fisheries Data
- H - Operation of FIN Data Management System
- H - Trip Ticket Program Operations

New

- H – GulfFIN Biological Sampling for Age Structures and Lengths

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.