

Paul,

#49

The following are my comments on the management review.

The importance of a strong well trained Council staff can not be over stated. Their ability to provide input to committee and Council discussions and deliberations is critical to the process. Their primary importance should be to provide an objective review but the historical knowledge they can provide of past and current policy, management and science is important for a Council that is likely to have some new members every 3 years. I have also seen examples of where input they have provided that has been perceived by some as "over stepping their authority" has helped a Committee stop spinning their wheels and start moving forward. Make sure the highly talented staff remains challenged by their jobs and not stifle them in anyway.

I think all Council members should be required to take a meetings management seminar. This would provide the opportunity to expose members to the basics of Roberts Rules of order and learn the skill of effectively running a meeting. If this is provided in the new Council members training session then it would be valuable for Council members to take a refresher if they are a member for multiple terms. Strong well trained leadership at the committee level can address several of the challenges for the Council.

Yes the amount reading materials can seem daunting but is manageable when well organized and formatted by the Council staff (i.e. the major points summarized at the beginning of a document or high lighted within a document) to provide an overview and guidance on where the Council members can delve into the details if needed. The power point presentations are also helpful summaries of the issues we need to address. I have actually been more concerned about my experiences at occasional Committee meetings where I have not been provided with all the reading materials I needed to make decisions for an agenda item and this has resulted in a delay the process.

I am intrigued by the suggestion of collaborative working sessions but, at this point in time, fail to understand how this would take place during formal public meetings of a deliberative body. Examples of how this would take place would be helpful. I am also curious how a facilitator would work in a decision making session of a deliberative body.

We need to identify what the redundant activities are.

Don't worry about the coffee (;-}) as long as we continue to have meetings at locations where we can easily buy it during breaks. However, it would suggest that once a year during a Council meeting, arrange for a dinner or cocktail reception for Council members, staff, and key NEFSC and NERO staff. Encourage all to attend by reducing the per diem for the day to account for the dinner being provided.

Douglas Grout
Chief of Marine Fisheries
NH Fish & Game Dept.
Marine Fisheries Division
225 Main St.
Durham, NH 03824
603-868-1095
603-868-3305 (fax)