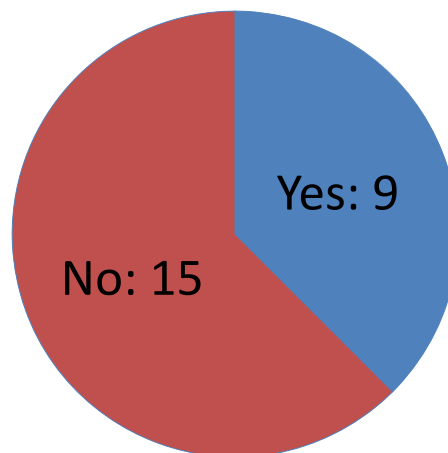


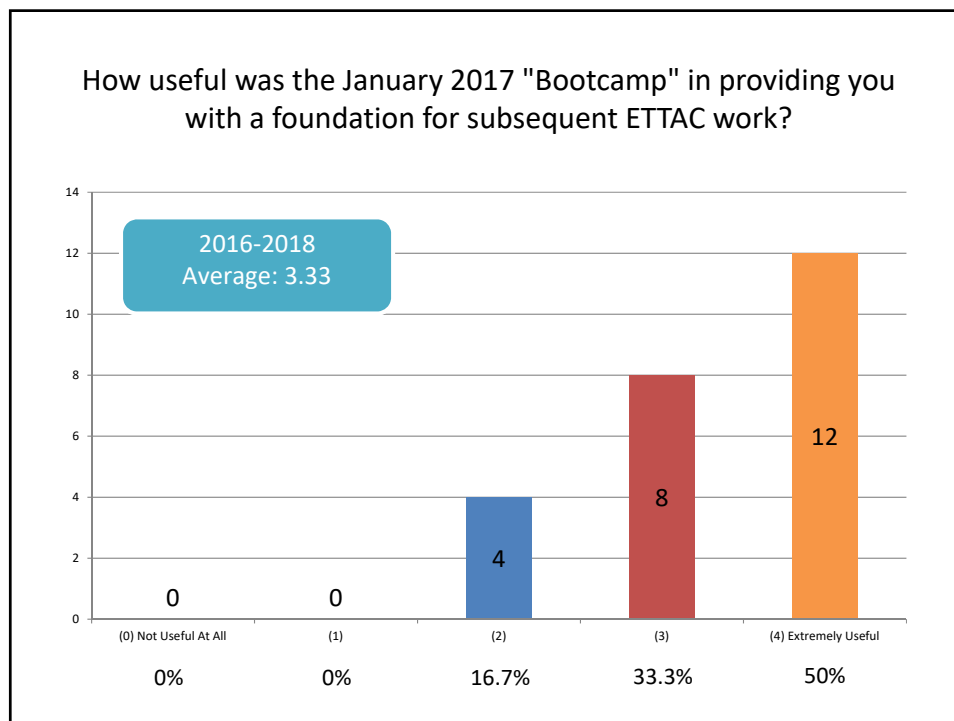
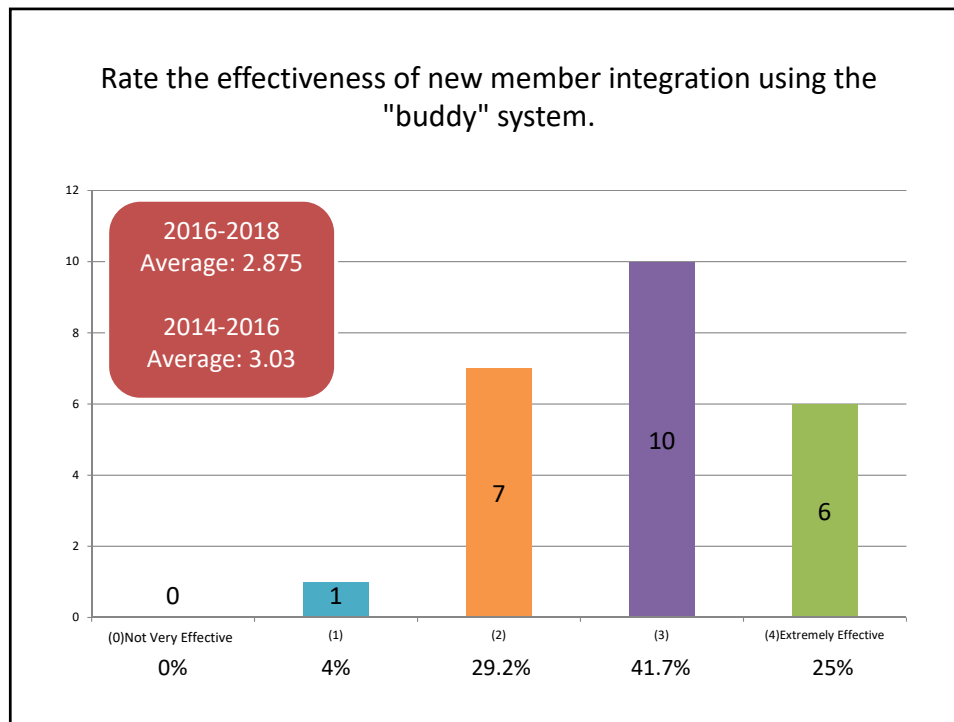
## ETTAC 2016-2018 Charter Membership Survey Results

Is this your first charter on ETTAC?

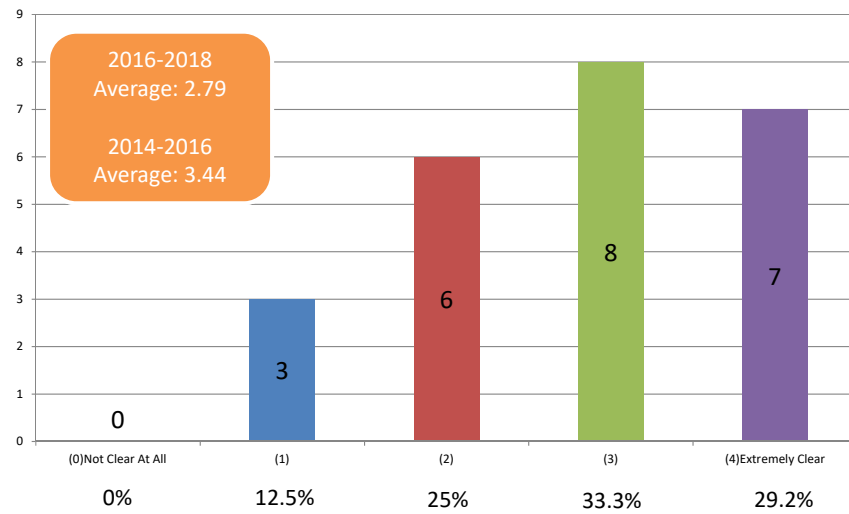
2016-2018 Responses:  
Yes: 37.5%  
No: 62.5%  
Total: 24

2014-2016 Responses:  
Yes: 50%  
No: 50%  
Total: 27

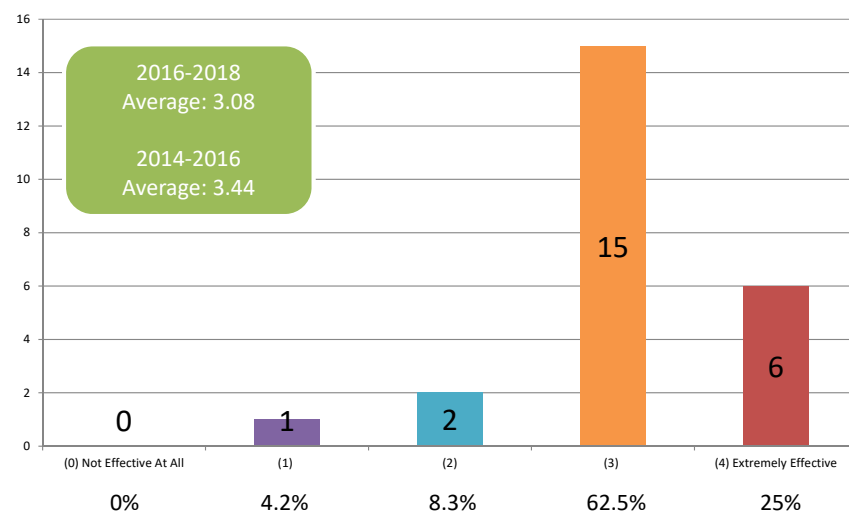




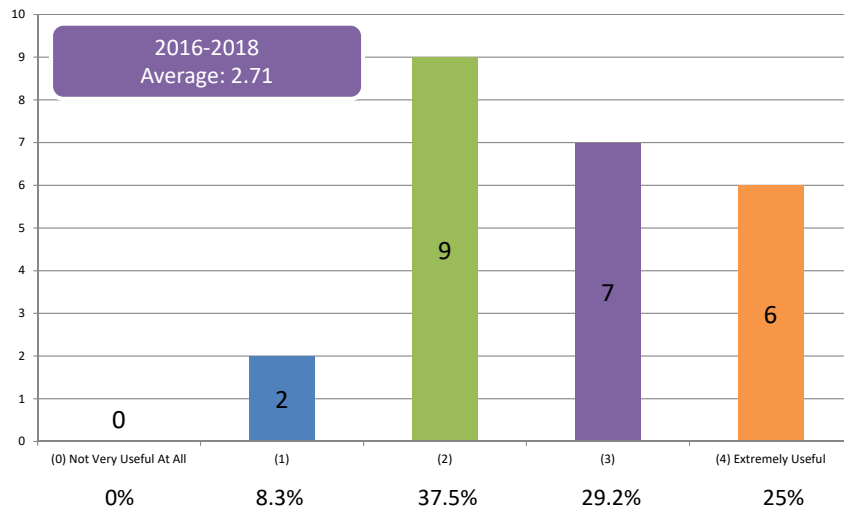
## How clear are the committee's objectives?



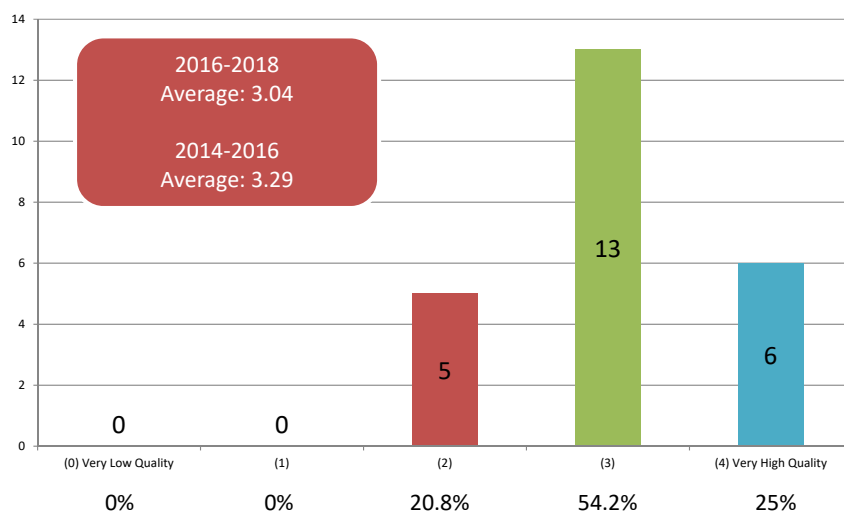
## How effective are subcommittee conference calls in accelerating the development of recommendations?



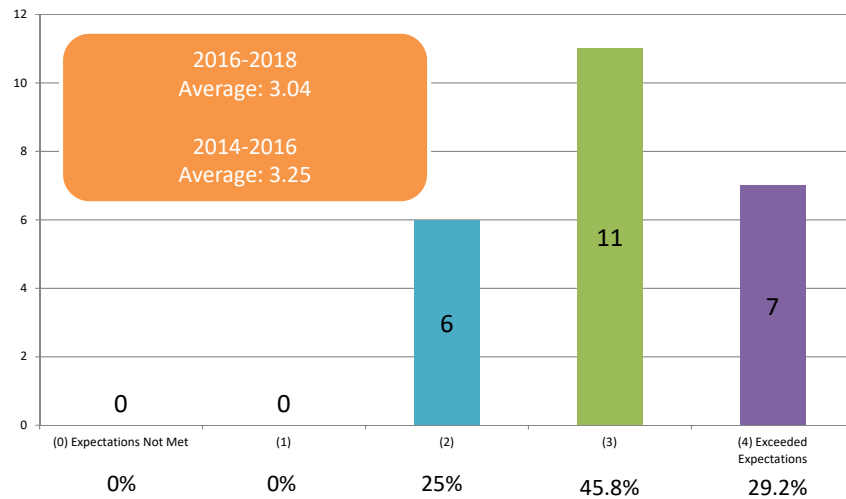
Did you find the sector-specific "ad hoc working groups" useful  
(e.g. in developing recommendation topics for  
consideration by subcommittees)?



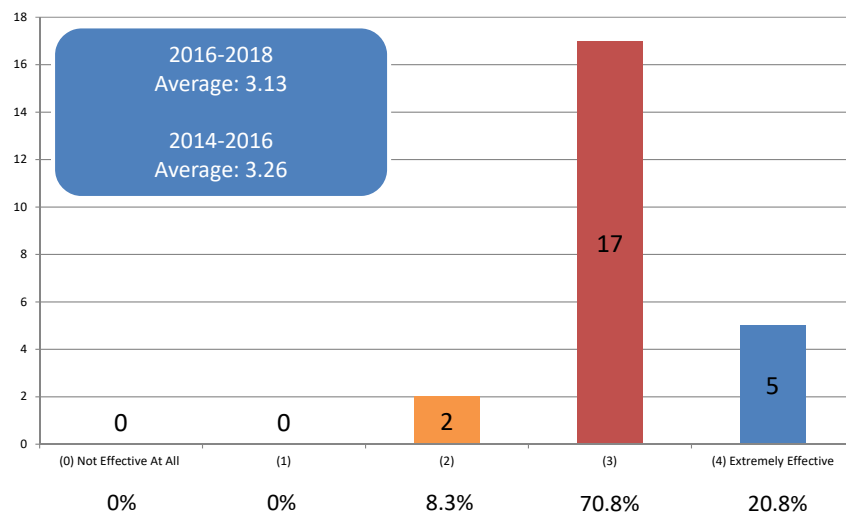
Rate the speaker quality in terms of providing information and  
strategies related to specific sector challenges  
(air, water/wastewater, waste).



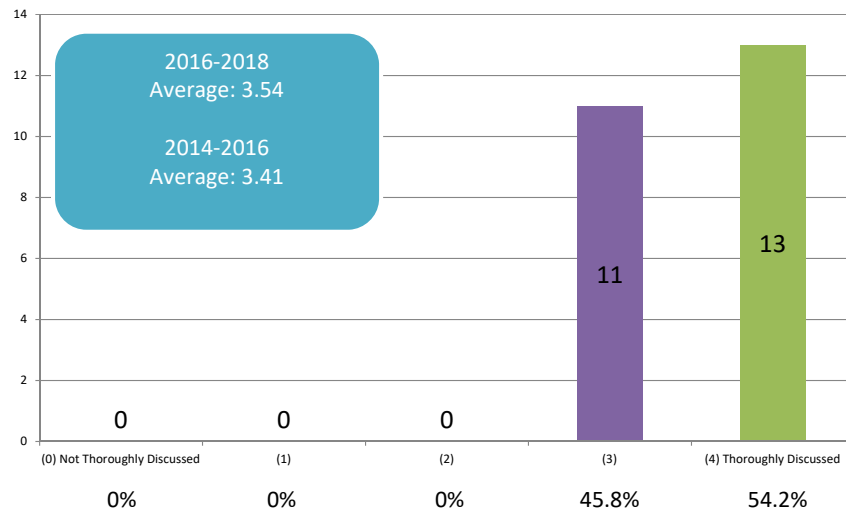
Are we meeting the expectations you had when you joined this Charter through effective use of the agenda and committee process?



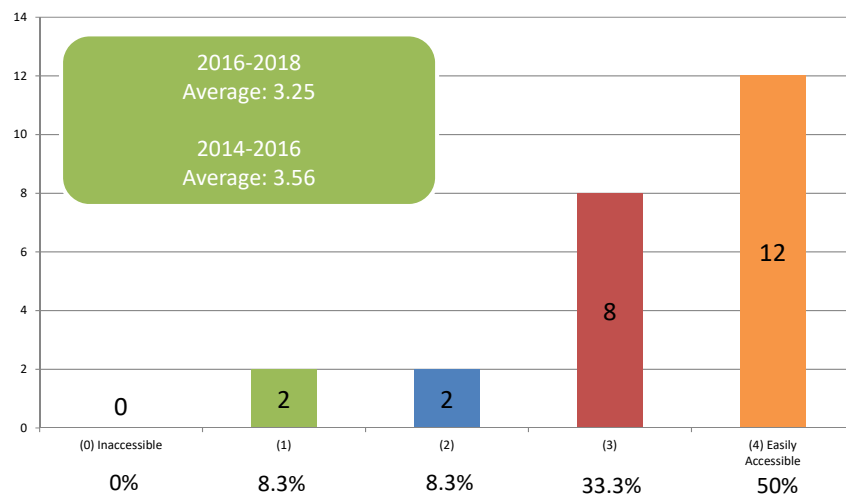
How effective is the decision-making process in accomplishing the committee's objectives?



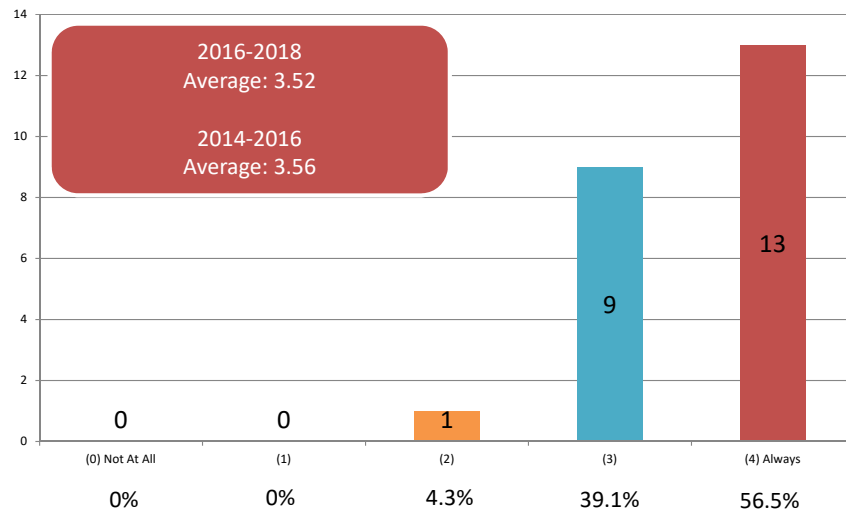
How thoroughly are decisions and recommendations discussed in order to gain understanding and make decisions?



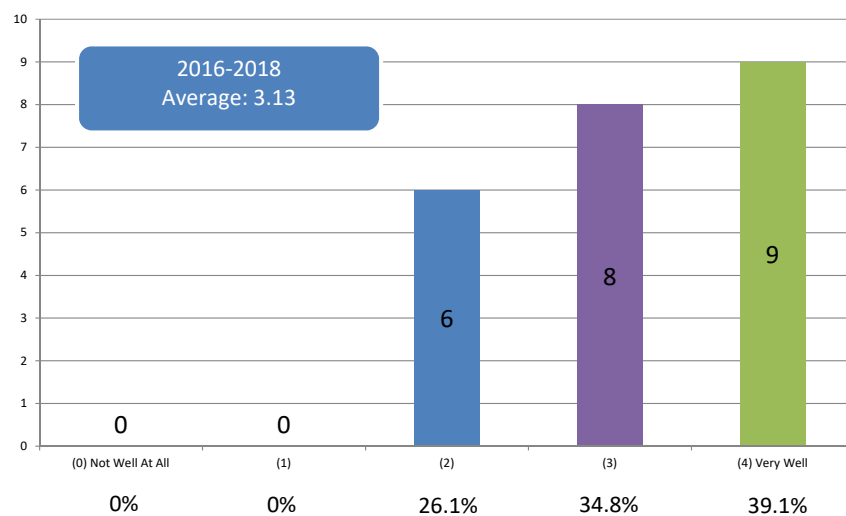
Rate the access to Commerce Department officials for specific questions and discussions.



Do you think your individual participation is encouraged and comments carefully considered?



How well did the actual time commitment for ETTAC-related work and activities align with your expectations prior to the start of the charter?



### Comments

- For the first time in my 3 charters on this committee, we have had **quorum challenges**. Some members have not met their commitments to the group and this should be reviewed individually with them by staff before they apply for the next charter.
- "Providing **context for why certain focus area were undertaken in the past**, where perceived gaps still exist (and why) in the view of previous Charters, and what conditions for trade have evolved, changed and ""currently"" exist would be most helpful at the start of a Charter (boot camp?)."

Similarly, **providing context for any given speaker** -- relative to the big picture and/or specific concerns either historical or current -- will help Charter members better make use of the information provided throughout the Charter. **Bootcamp as structured in the 2016-2018 Charter was extremely dense and tough to absorb** relative to "how will this information be relevant in light of the broader context." Feedback directly from the business community is critical to shaping and refining trade-related policies, tools, programs and practices. That said, it is difficult to predict how or if the ETTAC's recommendations will be applied amidst the evolving landscape of the current administration. There have been significant changes around trade policies, practices and resourcing since the start of this Charter which are directly impacting the businesses represented within the ETTAC, and across the country. These dynamics are challenging to navigate within an agenda that seeks to increase trade opportunities for US Companies. The Charter engagement itself has been a very satisfying experience. The staff have been incredibly knowledgeable, organized and easy to work with amidst well-structured processes and an exceptionally responsive support to Committee. **ETTAC members who remained engaged throughout the Charter offered deep expertise, rigor, direct experiences, diverse perspectives, access to their professional networks, and thoughtful consideration** under a somberly adopted mantle of trying to represent the interests of hundreds of thousands of companies across the US looking to grow their presence in markets all over the world. It has been a privilege to work with all of them."

### Comments

- I have enjoyed serving on the ETTAC, however the **time and resource commitment is not commensurate with the benefits received by my firm**. I will not be seeking re-appointment.
- The **"Boot Camp" was excellent**. I even heard some old timers say that they learned about some programs and opportunities that they did not know about. I extremely **appreciate the effective time management of these meetings and calls**. You always show respect for our time while still moving important issues forward.
- Staff support has been remarkable and very responsive.
- "I would strongly suggest that you **put together an annual calendar for the upcoming year in October**. Scheduling conflicts were my number one challenge with contributing to the Committee. Suggest we capture a list of specific actions at the end of each meeting and start the next meeting with a review of those items. **Continue to emphasize actions taken by Commerce officials as a result of Committee actions/recommendations**."
- **This charter required a lot more off site participation**. I found it very difficult to get traction or become engaged due to the change of administration. I had a hard time finding tangible ideas to work on and goals to achieve. **I would have liked a chance to switch subcommittees to something I found more engaging**. A lot more work is done in subcommittee than in my previous charter.
- Closer engagement with the Commerce Department Secretary and Undersecretaries is desirable considering the time and expense commitment by the firms sponsoring the participants. **Feedback of actions taken in response to recommendations could be communicated much better and should carry-over from year to year with statusing**.



### Comments

- Due to staff changes part way through the charter it felt a bit like some momentum was lost. Newer staff were less experienced and not as well organized. **Attendance at meetings seems to have fallen off significantly and we need to understand why** - was it that the meetings were not compelling enough to attend or were the people selected not really willing to commit to attendance. I also think the Administration change and lack of upper level leadership in the Agency really hampered the effectiveness of the committee.
- Seems like **we are struggling to define our role this Charter** due to the extreme trade related positions of the new Administration.
- It felt like there was better continuity of flow between charters this time unfortunately the administration change created a lot of uncertainty at the beginning so **it felt like a lot of the work was overloaded on the back end of the charter**. We lost some connection and discussion with **low participation at the happy hour/dinners**. It's a time commitment that can be difficult to arrange with incoming flights but it's worth the investment.
- **Reconsider overlay of subcommittee and ad hoc working groups**. Felt like the current overlay added complexity to the subcommittee and took away from some of the overall objectives. I'd also like to see an earlier discussion on data availability and how we collect the information needed to drive charter objectives.
- There were some **continuity issues with the rotation of staff**, but things seem settled down now. Hope ETTAC has been providing useful and actionable input.
- Thank you for a productive charter!

### Comments

- "Time commitment from my first experience (three charters) to now has increased as more work is done. I still feel that **we too often lose track of work that was done in prior charters without a better follow up on what actually happened with those recommendations**.

Due to a variety of reasons, this charter has had a **musical chairs feeling for the DFO**. Unfortunately, at times, this has made the commitment from Commerce (not the individuals) seem questionable.

The **subcommittees seem to be where most of the work gets done** and not so much with the ad hoc working groups - at least on the water sector. I wonder if the others feel that they have sufficient representation in the process because of this. Again, because of the two year process to drive action items through, there is an **apparent lack of follow through on the recommendations as we close one charter and start another**.

I would encourage Commerce and the DFO to establish a process where the action items identified are tracked and reported back to ETTAC members until they are completed or dropped. This is important for member companies as we evaluate our participation in ETTAC.

## Summary / Conclusions

### **Recommendations Development Process:**

- Additional clarity needed regarding Committee objectives
- Mechanism needed to track previous Charters' recommendations and status of ETWG follow up
- Context should be provided for each speaker and overall for Bootcamp
- Sector-specific ad-hoc working groups should be stood up as-needed only

### **Committee Administration:**

- Members' inter-sessional time commitment should be clarified up front
- Meeting dates should be specified by October of previous year
- Quorum challenges – why?

### **Other items?**