



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Law Enforcement Committee Meeting Summary

May 13-14, 2014

Committee Members: Lloyd Ingerson, Chair; Michael Eastman, Vice Chair; Kyle Overturf, CT; Doug Messeck, DE; Antonio Kilpatrick, FL; Doug Lewis, GA; Joe Fessenden, ME; Pat Moran, MA; Jason Snellbaker, NJ; Steve Anthony, NC; Larry Furlong, PA; Kurt Blanchard, RI; Chisolm Frampton, SC; Jamie Green, VA; Logan Gregory, NOAA; Wayne Hettenbach, USDOJ; Elizabeth Buendia, USCG; Honora Gordon, USFWS.

ASMFC Staff: Mark Robson; Kate Taylor; Tina Berger; Ann McElhatton

Public: Bruce Buckson, NOAA OLE

The Law Enforcement Committee met over two days during the spring meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. This was the first meeting for several new members, including the new addition of a representative from the United States Department of Justice (Wayne Hettenbach). Lt. Doug Messeck now represents Delaware and Lt. Col. Larry Furlong represents Pennsylvania. Special Agent-in-charge Honora Gordon represents the USFWS.

Species Issues

Joe Fessenden gave a presentation to the LEC on the new swipe card system being employed in Maine to address glass eel harvest. Kate Taylor briefed the LEC on management options in Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment and the current law enforcement comments in the document. The LEC will review the management options in the draft and consider whether any changes or updates to previous LEC comments are warranted.

Action Plan Issues

The LEC reviewed the 2009 *Guidelines for Resource Managers on the Enforceability of Fishery Management Measures*. The LEC determined to initiate a review and update of the guidelines and Mark Robson will prepare a review draft for the fall 2014 meeting.

LEC members reported on activities and participation on Law Enforcement Committees of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and recent meetings of the National and the Northeast Conservation Chief's Association.

Members reviewed social media sites online and discussed the pros and cons of various sites such as Facebook and Twitter for enforcement purposes. Tina Berger and Ann McElhatton from ASMFC staff participated in the discussion and shared information on conservation use of social media sites. There was general agreement that such tools can be helpful in enforcement but require careful monitoring to minimize misinformation or abuse.

Other Issues

LEC members reviewed their states' participation in wildlife violator compacts and the applicability of those interstate agreements for marine enforcement issues. There was agreement that such compacts enhance enforcement of regulations across state boundaries and will review ways to make use of existing compacts, or to encourage entering into such compacts where needed.

The LEC discussed the recent national coordination meeting for Joint Enforcement Agreements (JEA). These agreements provide funding from NOAA to individual states for their federal marine fisheries enforcement programs. The state-federal makeup of the LEC provided a valuable opportunity to clarify and resolve issues stemming from the national meeting.