



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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## Law Enforcement Committee Meeting Summary

November 4, 2015

**Committee Members:** Michael Eastman, Chair; Steve Anthony, Vice Chair; Kyle Overturf, CT; Doug Messeck, DE; Rama Shuster, FL; Bob Lynn, GA; Rene Cloutier, ME; Pat Moran, MA; Tim Huss, NY; Jason Snellbacker, NJ; Larry Furlong, PA; Kurt Blanchard, RI; Rob Kersey, MD; Jamie Green, VA; Bob Hogan, NOAA GC; Colby Schlaht, USCG; Andrew Aloise USFWS; .

**ASMFC Staff:** Mark Robson; Mike Waine; Kirby Rootes-Murdy

**GSMFC Members in Attendance for Joint Meeting:** Chad Hebert, Chair; Rusty Pittman, Vice Chair; Scott Bannon, AL; Brandi Reeder, TX; Jason Brand, USCG; Cynthia Fischer, NOAA GC; Tracy Dunn, NOAA OLE; Wynn Carney, NOAA OLE; Steve VanderKooy, GSMFC; Debbie McIntyre, GSMFC.

The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) met in joint session with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's LEC on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

### Species Issues

**Striped Bass** — Mark Robson briefed committee members on a request from ASMFC staff to compile and provide information from their respective states or agencies regarding general understanding of and compliance with changes to Atlantic striped bass bag regulation changes. A subcommittee of the LEC will compile information for the compliance report on the 2015 fishing year.

**Tautog** — Four members of the LEC participated in a law enforcement subcommittee with Tautog Board commissioners to review enforcement concerns with the commercial and recreations tautog fishery. Jason Snellbaker presented key findings and recommendations to the tautog management board, and also reviewed the subcommittee's work with the LEC. In follow-up the enforcement subcommittee will continue to work on suggested details for implementing a tag system for harvested tautog. The LEC will review and prepare written recommendations regarding regional management options for tautog to be considered in an upcoming addendum.

**American Eel** — Mike Waine from ASMFC staff attended the LEC meeting requested to continue working with the LEC and Mark Robson to document and report on any ongoing enforcement

issues with the glass eel fishery. Members reported on the success of the Maine swipe card system in reducing illegal activity, but cautioned that continued vigilance will be necessary to suppress illegal harvest and export of glass eels.

Horseshoe Crab — The LEC had requested that on occasion, it would be helpful to hear reports on the current management and science of ISFMP species. This is particularly helpful since the LEC does have newer members who may not be as familiar with ongoing management issues. Kirby Rootes-Murdy presented an overview of the horseshoe crab fishery, including the unique nature of the bait and the biomedical harvest fishery.

### **Action Plan Issues**

Mark Robson briefed the LEC on the proposed changes to the ASMFC Action Plan, and reviewed changes and additions to Goal 3. This goal specifically addresses enforcement issues. Members were presented with key tasks that need to be accomplished in 2016. While many tasks are ongoing from year to year, there were additional items to consider, including the addition of a new task to review enforcement needs for the offshore American lobster fishery, particularly LCMA 3.

Other action plan items include providing enforcement advice regarding compliance with new or changed regulations for Atlantic striped bass, tautog, American eel, and Jonah crab.

Members discussed the recent results of the enforcement matrix in the LEC's Enforceability Guidelines. Members discussed the low ratings for "airborne" enforcement and considered changes to that category that reflect the value of airborne assets when used in conjunction with land or water-based patrol or electronic surveillance systems.

### **Joint Meeting with GSMFC LEC**

Because of the unique opportunity presented by the annual meeting in Florida, the LEC's of both the ASMFC and GSMFC met in joint session. We had a productive and informative meeting and members appreciated the opportunity afforded to share information. This meeting also meets several objectives of the ASMFC LEC to encourage information exchange among state and federal enforcement partners. There was also opportunity to coordinate areas of enforcement for consistency. Following were some of the joint topics that generated considerable discussion:

- Aerial Enforcement needs and benefits.
- T.E.D. enforcement checks and coordination with NOAA OLE reporting needs.
- Enforcement of licensing in federal waters.
- Review of state and federal policies regarding recruitment, hiring and retention of officers.
- Illegal, under-reported and unreported fishing issues in the Gulf of Mexico at the U.S./Mexico border.

- Atlantic states policies regarding safe-harbor provisions and offloading of multi-state quotas.

The LEC thanks all of the members of the GSMFC LEC and staff for meeting jointly and helping to make for a very productive meeting.

#### **New Members to ASMFC LEC**

Colby Schlaht is now on-board as the primary USCG representative. Winn Carney is now attending as a representative for NOAA OLE from the mid-Atlantic region. Bob Lynn is the new representative from the Great State of Georgia. Andrew Aloise attended the meeting as a representative for USFWS.