

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY  
OCTOBER 21-22, 2012  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

SUBMITTED BY MARK ROBSON, COMMITTEE COORDINATOR  
COMMITTEE CHAIR: KYLE OVERTURF  
VICE CHAIR: LLOYD INGERSON

The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) met in conjunction with the 2012 annual meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). The following members attended:

Kyle Overturf (CT), John Rutherford (DE), Doug Lewis (GA), Joe Fessenden (ME), Lloyd Ingerson (MD), Jamie Green (VA), John Tulik (MA), Jeff Marston (NH), Dominick Fresco (NJ), Steve Anthony (NC), Jeff Bridi (PA), Kurt Blanchard (RI), Chisolm Frampton (SC), Jamie Lewis (VA), Logan Gregory (NOAA Fisheries OLE), Bob Hogan (NOAA Fisheries OGC); Neil Mendelsohn (USFWS).

Guests: Chief William Woody (USFWS)  
Jeff Douglas and Julio Silva (Pole Star Applications Limited)

**SPECIES ISSUES:**

**Atlantic menhaden.**—Mike Waine presented management options being considered in Draft Amendment 2. LEC members provided input on a variety of options with potential enforcement complications, including bycatch allowances, reporting of catch in the bait fishery, and how a “small fishery” is defined. Mark Robson will develop written recommendations reflecting LEC input.

**American eel.**—Kate Taylor presented management options being considered in Draft Addendum III. LEC members provided feedback on enforcement of closed seasons or quotas, monitoring of export points, and the difficulty of enforcing size limits for officers in the field. Mark Robson will develop written recommendations reflecting LEC input.

**American lobster.**—in response to discussions at the American lobster management board about v-notching, LEC members discussed current enforcement issues in the New England states and considered what recommendations and advice could be developed from the LEC. A previous position statement regarding v-notching will be reviewed and the LEC will meet in conference specifically to develop recommendations. Mark Robson will work with ASMFC staff to develop written recommendations reflecting LEC input.

Mark Robson will continue to work with ASMFC staff to identify species management board needs and improve LEC input to those boards. The LEC representatives to the species boards were updated as follows:

American eel/American lobster	Joe Fessenden
Atlantic herring	Jeff Marston
Coastal sharks	Chisolm Frampton
Horseshoe crab	John Rutherford
Menhaden	Lloyd Ingerson
Shad/river herring	Jeff Bridi

Spiny dogfish	John Tulik
Striped bass	Kurt Blanchard
Sturgeon	Dorothy Thumm
Weakfish	Steve Anthony
Winter flounder	Kurt Blanchard
Northern Shrimp	John Tulik

#### **STATE/FEDERAL COORDINATION:**

The LEC welcomed Chief William Woody to the meeting. Chief Woody is in charge of all law enforcement for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. He expressed strong interest in the activities of the LEC and the ASMFC and participated in the LEC meeting for its entirety. Coordination of enforcement efforts between USFWS and the states was discussed for species of mutual concern.

Logan Gregory of NOAA Office of Law Enforcement updated members on their 2013 enforcement priorities document and discussed ways to ensure LEC input and collaboration on federal enforcement priorities. There was additional discussion of budgetary concerns and the ongoing process of sharing federal enforcement dollars among states via the Joint Enforcement Agreement.

Bob Hogan briefed the LEC on the status of federal staffing and the handling of current caseloads.

#### **INFORMATION REQUESTS:**

Members of the LEC exchanged a great deal of valuable information concerning the use and effectiveness of various enforcement tools and communication equipment. The conversation included how equipment being used is holding up in marine environments, effectiveness of safety equipment and the latest communication and tracking systems. Several important issues came out of this discussion and the LEC re-committed to using their meetings for these exchanges.

Members heard a brief presentation by representatives of Pole Star Applications Limited, which is currently providing a vessel monitoring system for the oyster fishery in Louisiana. The State of Maine is evaluating a similar system for some of its fisheries on a pilot basis as a cost-effective enforcement and management tool.

Members viewed a high-quality, professionally produced video designed for recruitment of officers into the Maine Marine Patrol. The 8-minute, full-length version showed enforcement officers at their finest and emphasized the role of enforcement in the conservation of species, and in the aid and support of fishermen and fishing communities.

#### **LEC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES**

The LEC reviewed draft Action Plan items for 2013 relating to enforcement issues and provided written feedback to ASMFC staff. A key item of interest was ensure that an assessment of existing and needed enforcement resources be conducted whenever new management actions or regulations are considered for ASMFC species.