



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • www.asmfmc.org

Law Enforcement Committee Meeting Summary

May 5-6, 2015

Committee Members: Lloyd Ingerson, Chair; Michael Eastman, Vice Chair; Kyle Overturf, CT; Doug Messeck, DE; Rama Shuster, FL; Doug Lewis, GA; Jon Cornish, ME; Pat Moran, MA; Tim Huss, NY; Jason Snellbacker, NJ; Steve Anthony, NC; Larry Furlong, PA; Kurt Blanchard, RI; Rob Kersey, MD; Jamie Green, VA; Bob Hogan, NOAA GC; Elizabeth Buendia, USCG; Jay Pilgrim, USFWS; Wayne Hettenbach, USDOJ.

ASMFC Staff: Mark Robson; Toni Kerns; Megan Ware

Other Participants: Dan McKiernan, MA; Lou Goodreau, NEFMC; David Borden, RI

The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) met over two days during the 2015 spring meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

Species Issues

Striped Bass.—Mark Robson briefed committee members on the latest conservation equivalency measures being adopted by the states. The committee noted the effort of states to adopt the same or similar size and bag limits, in partial response to LEC comments for consistency and simplicity.

Jonah Crab.—The LEC received an update from staff on draft management options for this new fishery that is closely tied to the American lobster fishery. After reviewing possible permit options, minimum size limits, and possible harvest tolerances, the LEC appointed a sub-committee to review the fishery and the management plan. Written comments will be prepared and presented to the American lobster Management Board.

Atlantic Herring.—Mike Eastman briefed the committee on draft measures for an empty-hold provision and his recommendation that the language in the draft document is sufficient to address any enforcement concerns about checking or certifying empty holds.

Action Plan Issues

Committee members shared information on the most recent AFWA/NACLEC meetings, and the second enforcement Leadership Academy that is underway. A few members of the LEC participate in AFWA, and will likely be attending the annual meeting this September, in Arizona. The LEC also discussed a possible joint meeting of the ASMFC and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) during the fall 2015 meeting in Florida. There is interest in a possible joint meeting with the GSMFC LEC, and some common agenda items will be developed for that meeting.

To better support ASMFC management boards, the LEC appointed alternate representatives to the various species boards. This will allow newer members to learn more about the ASMFC process, and be available to fill in for primary LEC representatives.

Other Issues

Jason Snellbaker introduced a concern regarding possible abuse of safe-harbor requests in New Jersey. Other LEC members exchanged information about how their respective states handle safe harbor requests. There was not a general consensus for mechanisms to evaluate safe harbor requests, but members discussed a range of procedures ranging from no formal policies to a regulatory framework.

Based on discussions during development of revised Enforceability Guidelines, members reviewed recommendations for establishing boundaries of closed or protected areas. All agreed that the recommendations contained in the revised guidelines are adequate to address improvements in tracking and mapping technology and enforcement tools.

Special Recognition

Members of the LEC thanked Elizabeth Buendia (USCG), Lloyd Ingerson (MD), and Doug Lewis (GA) for their contributions to the committee. All three are moving on to bigger and better things.

Election

Because of the retirement Lloyd Ingerson, the current chairman, members elected Mike Eastman and Steve Anthony to serve as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.