



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

Alexandria, VA
May 20 & 21, 2013

Committee Members: Chair, Kyle Overturf (CT); John Rutherford (DE); Mark Carson (GA); Joe Fessenden (ME); Vice-Chair, Lloyd Ingerson (MD); Jamie Green (VA); John Tulik (MA); Michael Eastman (NH); Dominick Fresco (NJ); Steve Anthony (NC); Kurt Blanchard (RI); Timothy Huss (NY); Rama Shuster (FL); Logan Gregory (NOAA Fisheries OLE); Bob Hogan (NOAA Fisheries OGC); Elizabeth Buendia (USCG)

ASMFC Staff: Mark Robson, LEC Coordinator

Guests: Bruce Buckson (NOAA Fisheries OLE); Jim Landon (NOAA Fisheries OGC); Pat Moran (MA); Renee Cloudier (ME); Ken Endress (USFWS); Paul Mordan (Apple Inc.)

The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) met in conjunction with the 2013 Spring Meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

SPECIES ISSUES:

American eel.—Kate Taylor presented management options being considered in Draft Addendum III. The LEC heard public comment on enforcement programs for glass eel harvest in Maine and had a detailed review and discussion of ongoing enforcement issues associated with the legal harvest of glass eels in Maine and South Carolina. The LEC provided updated advice on each of the management options in the addendum. These recommendations were submitted to the American Eel Management Board for consideration.

Flounder, scup, and black sea bass.—The LEC reviewed potential enforcement challenges associated with commercial vessels carrying landing limits from more than one state. Several states deal with this on occasion, and the LEC will review and prepare a report for the ASMFC on how best to address enforcement concerns.

STATE/FEDERAL COORDINATION:

Bruce Buckson, Director of NOAA Office of Law Enforcement updated the LEC on current staffing and budget issues and some of the program priorities for the office. He introduced Jim Landon, Chief of the Enforcement Section for NOAA Fisheries Office of General Counsel. LEC members and guests reviewed current federal caseloads and staffing improvements within NOAA OGC.

Members discussed recent efforts via the LEC to coordinate at-sea boarding for certain fisheries where concurrence is needed among NOAA Fisheries, the USCG and states.

INFORMATION SHARING:

Steve Anthony of NC presented information on his state's development of communications technology for officers based on Apple tablets and phones. A representative from Apple Corporation (Government Applications) was invited to attend and present additional information.

Members of the LEC exchanged information concerning the use and effectiveness of various enforcement tools and communication equipment. The LEC coordinator will work with LEC members to compile information on each agency's use of communications and safety equipment for later use and review.

LEC members reviewed current programs and activities in their states or federal jurisdictions. Most states are attempting to fill vacant positions and address chronic staffing shortages.

LEC PLANNING AND PRIORITIES

Members were provided a copy of enforcement goals and tasks found in the ASMFC 2013 Action Plan. The LEC coordinator will update members on key tasks in the plan on an ongoing basis.

Membership on the LEC is changing. We recently lost Dorothy Thumm, Jeff Bridi and Jeff Marston to retirement. Rob Beaton has rotated off of the LEC because of change of duties. John Tulik has announced his retirement and introduced Pat Moran who may replace him on the LEC. The LEC welcomed our new members, including Rama Shuster and Timothy Huss. Members discussed impending retirements and successional issues in their own agencies.