



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

July 11, 2016

To: Coastal Sharks Management Board
From: Law Enforcement Committee
RE: LEC Review of Draft Addendum IV to the Coastal Sharks FMP

The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) met via conference call on July 8, 2016 to review and provide comments on proposed management options in Draft Addendum IV to the Coastal Sharks Interstate Fishery Management Plan.

The following members were in attendance:

LEC: Capt. Steve Anthony (NC); Capt. Grant Burton (FL); Deputy Chief Jon Cornish (ME); Lt. Mike Eastman (NH); Asst. Director Larry Furlong (PA); Special Agent-in-Charge Honora Gordon (USFWS); Capt. Jamie Green (VA); Capt. Tim Huss (NY); Capt. Rob Kersey (MD); Capt. Bob Lynn (GA); Capt. Doug Messeck (DE); Maj. Pat Moran (MA); Director Kyle Overturf (CT); Lt. Colby Schlaht (USCG); Lt. Jason Snellbaker (NJ);

LEC ALTERNATES: Eric Provencher (NOAA OLE)

OTHER ATTENDEES: David Borden (RI)

STAFF: Ashton Harp; Toni Kerns; Kirby Rootes-Murdy; Mark Robson; Megan Ware

The LEC reviewed the management options and rationales contained in Addendum IV and recommends Option B, allowing at-sea fin removal for smooth dogfish as long as the total retained catch, by weight, is composed of at least 25% smooth dogfish. The LEC makes this recommendation in support of consistency of regulations between state and federal waters, an overriding concern for enforcement generally. Members of the LEC discussed the difficulties of catch inspections and shark identification but recognized that smooth dogfish possess physical features potentially distinguishing them from other shark species. Nonetheless, this requires some level of training for officers in the field.

The LEC reiterates its long-standing position that processing of catch at sea presents significant enforcement challenges (*Guidelines for Resource Managers on the Enforceability of Fishery Management Measures, Second Ed. 2015*). In the case of smooth dogfish being landed, officers must contend with proper identification of species, determination of a legal percentage of fins relative to total dressed weight, and now a determination that a 25% catch composition threshold has been met. While consistency of regulations between state and federal waters is a positive step, this remains a difficult set of regulations from an enforcement perspective.

The LEC appreciates the opportunity to review and provide advice concerning this proposal.