



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

July 11, 2016

To: Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
From: Law Enforcement Committee
RE: Enforcement Review of Draft Addendum I to Amendment 2

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 I of the Atlantic menhaden 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 management options presented in Draft Addendum I that would allow up to 12,000 pounds of menhaden bycatch per day to be landed by two permitted individuals aboard a single vessel. The LEC also reviewed its previous written comments regarding an earlier, similar conservation equivalency proposal. That memorandum, dated January 15, 2016, was presented to the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board.

The LEC noted that its previous recommendation endorsing the proposed bycatch allowance increase was predicated on the restriction to pound net gear only. At that time the LEC did not have specific concerns about enforcement issues associated with the proposal. Experience with a similar provision for dual bycatch limits in 2013 in Maryland did not result in issues or problems for enforcement.

Upon reviewing the additional management options in Addendum I, the LEC affirmed that it continues to recommend Option D, whereby two authorized individuals, working from the same vessel fishing pound nets, are permitted to work together and land up to 12,000 pounds from a single vessel—limited to one vessel trip per day. The LEC does not support allowing other types of stationary multi-species gear to be included, as this would introduce problems

with identifying which gear are being legally fished, in situations where individual fishermen may have multiple gear licenses. The LEC reaffirmed its previous recommendation to revisit the regulations after they have been in place for at least one year to see if any unforeseen problems have arisen and make recommendations for change or improvement as appropriate.

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