



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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Law Enforcement Committee Meeting Summary

May 3 & 4, 2016

Committee Members: Michael Eastman, Chair (NH); Steve Anthony, Vice Chair (NC); Kyle Overturf, CT; Doug Messeck, DE; Rama Shuster, FL; Bob Lynn, GA; Jon Cornish, ME; Pat Moran, MA; Tim Huss, NY; Jason Snellbacker, NJ; Larry Furlong, PA; Kurt Blanchard, RI; Rob Kersey, MD; Jamie Green, VA; Jeff Ray, NOAA OLE; Bob Hogan, NOAA GC; Colby Schlaht, USCG; Honora Gordon, USFWS; Wayne Hettenbach, USDOJ.

ASMFC Staff: Mark Robson; Megan Ware; Amy Herrlinger

Other Participants: Rene Cloutier, ME; David Borden, RI; Pat Keliher (ME)

The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) met over two days during the 2016 spring meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

Species Issues

American Lobster — The LEC reviewed recent work of the lobster enforcement subcommittee. David Borden briefed the LEC on the desire of the Lobster Management Board to ensure success of trap reduction and stock recovery efforts, and the need for successful enforcement. The Subcommittee will continue work on various enforcement strategies, especially for offshore enforcement. The LEC heard a report from Rene Cloutier on the status of Maine's trap tag transferability pilot program. The LEC agreed that Maine has done a good job of developing a program that seems to be working well to reduce untagged traps, and to make tag replacement and distribution more accountable. The LEC heard a report on future work by the ASMFC to address minimum size differences among states, and a review of V-notch enforcement effectiveness and standardization.

Jonah Crab — Jon Cornish briefed the LEC on recent action to implement bycatch limits for non-trap and non-lobster trap gear. Megan Ware advised the LEC that a new addendum may be developed to consider claw harvest. The LEC will be asked to review management options and provide input at future meetings.

Tautog — Jason Snellbaker briefed the LEC on the recent work of the Tautog Enforcement Subcommittee. The subcommittee will be reviewing possible tag designs that may be useable for live tautog, and that would meet enforcement requirements for durability and tamper-resistance.

Summer Flounder — Jason Snellbaker discussed the recent growth of safe-harbor requests and proposals to allow dual-state landings in New Jersey. Other LEC members reported similar increases in safe harbor requests. A number of management and potential enforcement issues were discussed associated with this program

Other Issues

The LEC reviewed the establishment of an Aerial Enforcement Subcommittee to begin working on a review and update of enforceability rankings for aerial enforcement. The subcommittee will also consider issues associated with federal-state coordination and funding for aerial enforcement work.

The LEC has been asked to provide a list of recommended enforcement safeguards in conjunction with American eel aquaculture operations in North Carolina. The LEC reviewed the permit criteria for North Carolina, and will develop written recommendations to guide future aquaculture proposals.