

**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**2015 LAW ENFORCEMENT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Nominee's Information:**

Name: Amos Holt Williams

Position/Title: Enforcement Officer

Agency/Department: North Carolina Marine Patrol

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1965, Manteo, NC 27954

Phone: (252) 473-5734

E-mail: Amos.Williams@ncdenr.gov

**Nominator's Information:**

Name: Odell Williams

Position/Title: Sergeant

Agency/Department: North Carolina Marine Patrol

Phone: (252) 473-5734

E-mail: Odell.Williams@ncdenr.gov

Please use no more than one page to respond to the following three items (use Times New Roman 12 pt font). Attach to this cover sheet and mail to:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
c/o Myra Brouwer  
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201  
North Charleston, SC 29405

Nominations may also be submitted by fax (843-769-4520) or via electronic mail at [myra.brouwer@safmc.net](mailto:myra.brouwer@safmc.net)

1. Describe the nominee's current responsibilities.
2. Describe the nominee's significant contribution(s) to fisheries enforcement.
3. Describe specific qualities that make the nominee deserving of this award.

I hereby affirm that the information submitted herein and supporting documentation related to the nomination of this Nominee for this award is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that if any of the information provided is found to be inaccurate or untruthful, this nomination shall be removed from consideration for this award.

Nominator's signature:

Agt. Phill Williams

Date: 04-01-2016

### **Nominee's current responsibilities**

Officer Williams' current responsibilities include:

- Inspecting commercial and recreational vehicles, boats, and establishments engaged in the taking and possession of seafood while working the appropriate hours to cover the activities in assigned work area.
- Take appropriate enforcement actions for marine fisheries laws within the officer's jurisdiction according to policy.
- Responding to calls for service in an efficient and timely manner.

### **Nominee's significant contributions to fisheries enforcement**

Officer William's regularly makes contact the fishing public and enforces fishery laws. This diligence in performance of his duties has led to several significant contributions to fishery enforcement efforts.

On February 13, 2015 Officer Williams charged a commercial fishing operation with 5 violations of fishery rules, including selling seafood without a commercial fishing license and possession of illicit fish. To make this case Officer Williams observed to port of landing for over 6 hours covertly and once the violations were discovered he spent another 7 hours seizing seafood, processing the violators, and beginning his follow-up investigation. Because of this attention to detail another 12 charges were discovered and brought against the fisherman and seafood dealer. This resulted in over 300 pounds of Dolphin Fish, 100 pounds of Wahoo, and other assorted fish being seized totaling over 8700 pounds. In addition to the catch seized and sold another 28 pounds of Dolphin Fish and 100 pounds of Wahoo were found to have been sold illegally. This case was brought before court which resulted in replacement costs of the illegally harvested fish, as well as criminal and civil penalties brought against the fisherman and seafood dealer.

On May 24, 2015 Officer Williams inspected a recreational boat that had 6 times the legal limit of Blueline Tilefish. Again this action resulted in criminal penalties levied against the fisherman.

These cases show Officer Williams diligence in inspecting and enforcing fishery laws in both the recreational and commercial sectors.

### **Nominee's qualities**

Officer Williams is known for being around the fish house whenever a new regulation takes effect so help make the fishing public aware of it. He is even known to call fishermen on the phone to keep them updated of current rules as well.

As a veteran officer, Williams can be counted on to offer advice and help train new officers the Marine Patrol hires. He continuously bring forth new and effective ideas to benefit the Marine Patrol as well as the citizens of North Carolina. This has earned him the respect from his fellow officers and from the fishing industry.

These qualities and his excellent work ethic show that Officer Williams is deserving of such a prestigious award.

**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**2015 LAW ENFORCEMENT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Nominee's Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Clay McDonough \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_ Officer / Operator in Charge – Offshore Patrol Vessel – Osprey \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Department: \_\_\_ Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ 1A Max Brewer Memorial Parkway, Titusville, FL 32796 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_ (386) 566-9885 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_ Clay.McDonough@myfwc.com \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator's Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bryan Lee \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_ Lieutenant / Offshore Patrol Vessel Supervisor – Northeast Region \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Department: \_\_\_ Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_ (321) 795-4330 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_ Bryan.Lee@myfwc.com \_\_\_\_\_

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Nominator's signature:



Date:

4/8/16

**Officer Clay McDonough** has served with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for 17 years. He joined the Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) program in 2010 and is assigned full-time to the program. His duties include operating and maintaining the *Osprey*, his assigned thirty-eight foot Brunswick patrol vessel, as well as conducting federal fisheries patrols under FWC's Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) contract with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Ofc. McDonough has obtained operator-in-charge status on multiple vessels within FWC's OPV fleet and is able to keep our vessels and vital equipment operational during high-profile federal fisheries details. Cross-training events and deployments require him to often travel statewide. Some of his deployments and training missions over the last year that focused on protecting federal fisheries include: traveling to Tampa to cross-train on the OPV *Guardian*; traveling to Jupiter to train a new crew on FWC's 10 meter vessel; Turtle Excluder Device (TED) enforcement actions; long-range overnight runs to Oculina Beach; multi-agency snapper details, golden tile fish, lobster season, and fish house inspections. Ofc. McDonough does not hesitate to assist in any manner necessary to make the program successful, regardless of whether he's working as a vessel captain or a crewmember. The success of the OPV program and enforcement of federal fishery regulations are always Ofc. McDonough's top priority.

Ofc. McDonough and the *Osprey*'s list of cases is extensive and diverse, demonstrating his broad commitment to protecting federal fisheries. A sample of his recent case activity includes:

- (7) Federal violations on recreational fishermen for red snapper closed season and gear violations.
- (3) Federal violations for cases involving undersized trigger fish, sea bass, and vermillion snapper.
- (2) Federal violations for undersized sailfish and Highly Migratory Species (HMS) violations.
- (1) Federal case for commercial trip limit violations for snapper, grouper, and possession of filleted snapper. In this particular case, the *Osprey* crew seized 914 pounds of mutton snapper, 619 pounds of snowy grouper, and 137 pounds of red snapper filets. The wholesale value totaled \$6,448.

Ofc. McDonough is known within FWC as a subject matter expert on all topics related to the enforcement of offshore fisheries regulations. He assists National Marine Fisheries Special Agents during classroom training presentations on case preparation and with TED and net measurements. He actively promotes FWC and the OPV program by participating in outreach events and meetings, such as, an SAFMC meeting in St. Augustine, a marine fisheries meeting in Ormond Beach, career day at New Smyrna Beach High School, a United States Coast Guard (USCG) search and rescue conference, and as a guest lecturer at the University of Florida. He and the OPV *Osprey* were also recently featured in an article published by the Portfolio-Vero Beach magazine.

OPVs operate on a set budget, and any increase in maintenance cost results in less funds being available for fuel and patrol functions. In order to keep maintenance costs as low as possible, Ofc. McDonough learned the maintenance requirements for OPVs. As a result, he and his crew are now able to perform all maintenance associated with a 100-hour service package, as well handle minor repairs. This translates into a cost savings of \$2,000 per boat every 100 hours.

Ofc. McDonough has also participated in several Search and Rescues (SAR) offshore. He used the *Osprey* to rescue boaters who were in danger of capsizing in rough seas on three separate instances in Ponce Inlet. He was recently awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the U.S. Department of Commerce NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement for his work protecting federal fishery resources under our JEA. Ofc. McDonough believes in leading by example and is the best of what FWC's OPV program has to offer.

**SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
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**Nominee's Information:**

Name: Richard Chesler

Position/Title: Special Agent

Agency/Department: US Department of Commerce, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

Mailing Address: 5537 South Williamson Blvd., Suite 749, Port Orange, FL 32128

Phone: 321-795-7698

E-mail: richard.chesler@noaa.gov

**Nominator's Information:**

Name: Manny Antonaras

Position/Title: Deputy Special Agent in Charge

Agency/Department: US Department of Commerce, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

Phone: 727-824-5331

E-mail: manny.antonaras@noaa.gov

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Nominator's signature:



Date:

4/20/2016



## **CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Richard Chesler is currently a special agent (SA) assigned to NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Southeast Division, Port Orange, Florida field office.

SA Chesler is responsible for conducting complex criminal and civil investigations involving violations of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Lacey Act, Endangered Species Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act. SA Chesler also conducts field enforcement activities such as patrols and surveillance. In addition, SA Chesler provides liaison and training to joint enforcement agreement (JEA) partner Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FL FWC) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). SA Chesler is an agency field training instructor and collateral duty senior small boat operator, firearms, use of force and control tactics instructor.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT:**

***Team Work and Public Outreach*** – SA Chesler has coordinated or participated in numerous outreach events across the spectrum of fisheries and protected species management. SA Chesler has presented to the SAFMC several times and authored the law enforcement section of the Oculina Evaluation Plan. He co-instructed an undergraduate class on State and Federal marine fisheries management at the University of Florida. SA Chesler is the primary liaison between OLE and the FL FWC offshore patrol vessel program and coastal squads in the Northeast and North Central regions. He conducts joint patrols/investigations, provides training, and reviews case packages for issuance of summary settlements or submission to NOAA General Counsel-Enforcement Sections. SA Chesler also provides subject matter expertise on fisheries to USCG Sector Jacksonville operations and intelligence departments and regularly attends inter-agency coordination meetings.

***Excellence and Innovation*** – Due to a high volume of cases submitted by FL FWC, SA Chesler streamlined the case process by first obtaining copies of the citation from submitting officers for entry into the OLE database. This shortened the processing time once the case package is received resulting in the faster issuance of summary settlements. He created a standardized training program for JEA case protocol and Turtle Excluder Device inspections which has been presented to FL FWC, GADNR, SCDNR, and NCMP.

***Attitude and Leadership*** – SA Chesler has volunteered for and performed as an acting supervisor for over 7 months. SA Chesler developed a program to recognize FL FWC officers for significant contributions to the JEA program.

***Achievements and Accomplishments*** – SA Chesler received the U.S. Department of Commerce Silver Medal Award for ensuring compliance with speed restrictions to protect endangered North Atlantic Right Whales. SA Chesler was the OLE nominee for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Capt. David Hart award.

## **QUALITIES DESERVING OF THE AWARD:**

SA Chesler's tireless work ethic, outstanding liaison with partner agencies, and willingness to take on additional leadership responsibilities has significantly contributed to overall success of the NOAA's Southeast Office of Law Enforcement.