



April 23, 2012

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

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Dear Sir or Madam:

Investigator Izsak was first introduced to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) as a student intern while enrolled in the University of North Florida Criminal Justice program. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree, she began her career with the agency as a Duty Officer in the Jacksonville Regional Communications Center (JRCC). In 2008, she was accepted as a recruit by the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement and attended the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Training Academy. Upon graduation Izsak was assigned to Monroe County, beginning her sworn law enforcement career. In late 2009, the then Officer Izsak transferred back to Duval County where she has immersed herself in satisfying the mission of the agency and earning the respect and recognition of her peers as a hard-working, enthusiastic, and extremely capable Officer.

Before earning a promotion to Investigator in January 2012, Izsak was a permanent crew member aboard the P/V Sea Hawk, FWC's offshore patrol vessel assigned to the JEA for Duval and Nassau Counties. Izsak quickly became recognized as a subject matter expert in the enforcement of federal fisheries regulations, especially in the inspection of turtle excluder devices (TEDs). Investigator Izsak is often requested by other areas to participate in enforcement details, such as the lobster mini-season in Monroe County. This is a testament to her reputation amongst her peers and chain of command as a go-to Officer. Investigator Izsak leads by example and takes an active role in the direction in which the agency is moving; she routinely volunteers as an interview board member for prospective academy recruits and Duty Officers and serves as a Field Training Officer for new Officers reporting to the field from the academy. She also continuously seeks out training opportunities that will provide her with new ideas and resources, which will assist her in effectively and efficiently performing her duties.

As a crew member of the Sea Hawk, Investigator Izsak often identified procedures that could be improved upon and provided solutions. For instance, she recognized the need for validating the locations of offshore reefs in our patrol area into the Computer Aided Dispatch system and provided Duty Officers in the JRCC with the information necessary to make the recording of the locations in our unique patrol area much easier for both the Duty Officer and Sea Hawk crew members. Also, understanding and appreciating the documentation necessary to successfully prosecute a federal fisheries case, Investigator Izsak developed new and effective methods for streamlining the recording of information. For example, she suggested photographing the chart plotter display and GPS status page of the unit when performing GPS verifications—a process that has been embraced by other boat crews throughout the state involved in the JEA function as a simple way to quickly and accurately complete the necessary task.

Investigator Izsak also utilized her networking and communication skills to facilitate the mooring of the Sea Hawk at Naval Station Mayport. The move, awaiting a final MOU draft, will reduce the Sea Hawk's transit time to the ocean by approximately one hour each patrol, increasing patrol time and decreasing fuel consumption and cost for transiting to and from the patrol area. Securing the Sea Hawk at Mayport will also save approximately \$1,000 per year in dockage expenses and will bolster the relationship between the two entities.

Throughout 2011, Izsak documented a large number of JEA patrol hours aboard the Sea Hawk. As a member of the Sea Hawk crew, she was involved in numerous commercial shrimp gear cases, specifically relating to TEDs, where either state or federal citations were issued resulting in fines up to \$11,500. The first violation recorded in the North Florida MPA was a direct result of her passion and enthusiasm. One night when planning to patrol the MPA, due to rough seas I began to have reservations about the trip as the MPA begins 60 miles east of the St. Johns River entrance. However, Izsak encouraged me to continue to the area and after a long rough ride, she spotted a light on the horizon, which was found to be a commercial grouper / snapper vessel anchored inside the MPA, with gear rigged for fishing and grouper / snapper complex species on board. The catch was seized and a NOVA for \$11,250 was issued.

Investigator Izsak was involved in numerous other cases aboard the Sea Hawk, but her focus on JEA patrol and activity off the Sea Hawk is particularly noteworthy. When not patrolling on the Sea Hawk, she assumed patrols with other Officers or conducted dockside inspections, often resulting in the documentation of violations, such as the possession of 22 black sea bass during closed season; possession of 66 vermilion snapper during closed season, six of which were undersized; and, possession of undersized gag grouper, black sea bass and red snapper during closed season.

Investigator Izsak is an active and productive Officer, who consistently operates in a professional manner, treats people fairly, utilizes good discretion, and follows-up productive patrols with excellent documentation. It is with great pleasure that I nominate Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Investigator Jill Izsak as the 2011 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.



Lt. Brad Givens  
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