

SAFMC Award of Excellence

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Description:

The purpose of the “SAFMC Award of Excellence” is to recognize those who have made substantial contributions to the science, management or sustainability of the marine resources and habitats under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. These contributions may be through a career of consistent involvement and accomplishments or through notable achievements during the previous year.

Selection Process:

1. Written nominations will be solicited annually through Council communication pathways such as the newsletter, website and email distribution list.
2. Nominations must be submitted to the Council Executive Director by June 30 for consideration in the current year.
 - *Considered: submission by April 30, to allow in-person discussion at the June meeting if desired, and presentation in September. This results in 6 mos between submission and awarding, which seems excessive. We should be able to handle this via webinar. Other awards provide 2-4 months between submission and award.*
3. The Executive Committee will review nominations and select the recipient by consensus.
4. The recipient’s identity will remain confidential until announced during the award presentation.
 - *Shorter time between submission and award will help achieve this.*

Award Process:

1. The award will be presented at the September Council meeting by the Council Chair.
 - *Presentation meeting can be modified. September was chosen as a starting point since that meeting is usually in Charleston, which is a fairly central location with easy airport access that could be a plus for recipients and their families.*
2. Award recipients will be reimbursed for travel to the award ceremony. If a group is selected to receive the award, all individuals will be invited and reimbursed for travel. If an individual is selected, travel for a family member or companion chosen by the recipient will also be reimbursed.
 - *Alternative: If a group is selected to receive the award, up to 5 individuals will be invited to represent the group and reimbursed for travel.*
3. The recipient will receive a plaque.
 - *Financial awards are not allowed.*

- *Option: A permanent plaque listing all recipients will be displayed at the Council office*

Nomination Process:

1. Nominations may be made by anyone.
 - *Alternative: Limit nominations to Council Members, or also AP and SSC members.*
2. There are no limitations on who may be nominated.
 - *A recipient of other SAFMC awards, such as the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, is eligible for this award, and, for example, could be nominated to acknowledge a career of contributions despite receiving LEOY in one of those years.*
 - *Current SSC, AP, Council members, Staff would all be eligible.*
3. Nominations must be provided in writing and should be brief – not to exceed 3 pages.
4. Candidates must be nominated annually; nominations will not carry over into future years.
 - *Option: allow nominations to carry over for one year.*
5. Nominations should address how the nominee has contributed to the science, management and sustainability of the marine resources and habitats under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.
6. Nominations should include a brief bio and address the following:
 - a. How has the nominee’s work, research, or activities positively impacted the conservation of marine resources in the South Atlantic?
 - b. How has the nominee’s work, research, or activities positively impacted the South Atlantic Council’s process, public awareness, or credibility?
 - c. What makes the nominee’s efforts unique or noteworthy?
 - d. In what ways has the nominee gone “above and beyond” in contributing to the South Atlantic Council’s mission?
7. Up to three letters of recommendation may be provided but are not required. Letters should not exceed one page.