

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

**Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel
Key West, Florida**

June 13, 2011

SUMMARY MINUTES

Law Enforcement Committee

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Ben Hartig

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LTJG Matt Lam

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Dr. Bonnie Ponwith
Otha Easley
Phil Steele
Dr. Nick Farmer
Dr. Mike Travis

Dr. Jack McGovern
Jessica McCawley
Bob Gill
Rick DeVictor
Nik Mehta
Capt. Chisolm Frampton

Other Participants Attached

The Law Enforcement Committee of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council convened in the Flagler Ballroom of the Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel, Key West, Florida June 13, 2011, and was called to order at 9:45 o'clock a.m. by Chairman George Geiger.

MR. GEIGER: I would like to call to order the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Law Enforcement Committee. Mr. Currin, Mr. Harris, Mr. Boyles, Hartig and Lam are all here. We are all present. We've got a very relatively short meeting, I hope, this morning. I would like to start off with the approval of the agenda.

Any changes to the agenda? Any objection to the agenda? Seeing none, the agenda is approved. We have a copy of the March, 2011 Law and Enforcement Committee Minutes. Any additions, deletions, changes to the minutes? Any objection to the approval of the minutes? Seeing none, the minutes are approved.

Our first order of business is the nomination and award criteria for the Law Enforcement of the Year. We have got Chisholm Frampton from South Carolina, our LE AP Chair here who is going to review for us that document that I think has been very well adjudicated and put together, I like it, Chisholm, you guys did a good job on it, so I will turn it over to you.

CAPTAIN FRAMPTON: I hope everybody had a chance to review the document, and I will be brief. We have worked on this in the past, and we had a teleconference call a month or so ago and finally put together the final details of it. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual who has exceeded above and beyond the duty requirements expected of the position held and who exemplifies the virtues of professionalism and dedication and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of service to enforcing fishing regulations in the South Atlantic Region.

To be as brief as I can be, what we wanted to do was have everybody on the AP bring forward a member and the AP would then narrow that down to possibly three and we will submit those three names up to the full committee for you all to decide who the officer of the year is. I know when we do it back home – and we talked about this on our teleconference call – everybody that puts forth their nomination wants their nomination to win, and that is the way we want it to be, but that can be a cumbersome process to weed it down to two or three people.

The criteria is the nominee must be a living, active, fulltime and paid state or federal fisheries law enforcement officer, U.S. Coast Guard officer, or prosecutorial attorney with the NOAA Office of General Counsel. They must reside and be assigned or attached for duty in one of the four southern Atlantic states. They must have a good reputation professionally and personally among his or her peers and community. The nominee must have maintained an outstanding level of productivity and professional achievement.

When the individual, through personal initiative, fixity of purpose, persistence or endeavor demonstrates a degree of effort that has a significant or positive impact on fisheries enforcement which would exceed the normal expectations of the job. The duties must be relevant to the enforcement of fishery regulations in the South Atlantic Region.

I think the fourth one is the one that we will focus on. We want to make sure that whoever our officer of the year nominee is has had an impact in fisheries enforcement in the South Atlantic. Anybody got any questions on where we are going or how we are getting to this person? Yes, sir.

MR. BOYLES: Chisholm, just a question, go back again if you could to the eligibility criteria. I noticed you have prosecutorial attorney for NOAA OGC, but is there any consideration given to an attorney at the state level?

CAPTAIN FRAMPTON: No sir, I don't think we gave that any consideration. We'll note that and when we meet in July we can go over this one more time and make any changes to it.

MR. GEIGER: Does anybody else have any comments? I'm seeing heads nodding in the affirmative. I think this is a very important program. The law enforcement people that work for us and work for the state constituents do a tremendous job. I just think recognition of those officers who go above and beyond is something that is well deserved amongst their peers.

It certainly needs to be demonstrated and communicated to the community that we have people who are willing to go above and beyond and be recognized as outstanding members of the Law Enforcement Committee. This is an important document and it is an important process, and I think one that needs to become institutionalized and handled well.

CAPTAIN FRAMPTON: I agree with you, George, and I will just say from the state level with enforcement officers in these hard budget times recognizing somebody's work and dedication to fisheries management is important. Obviously, we have some officers that are really good doing certain things, but we haven't had a whole lot in the way of recognizing them for fisheries work. I think this will be a positive thing for the whole committee and for everybody.

MR. GEIGER: Any other actions for this particular activity? One thing I would like to talk about that really wasn't on the agenda is how we go about recognizing an officer once they are selected. Perhaps we could get some consideration for that. The nominations will probably come forth in September, I hope. At least that is the physical plan or the plan of attack.

I think we need to give consideration. You can't give a cash award and it is nice to recognize somebody. Perhaps, Bob – and I don't know how we can do this – maybe we can have the Law Enforcement Officer of the year and his or her family attend a meeting for the presentation of the award, and there would be a day or two days on the council ticket for the family at whatever meeting location site we choose to make this presentation.

MR. MAHOOD: Yes, we certainly can do something like that. We would invite them and obviously they could bring their family or we could invite their family.

MR. GEIGER: All right, that is good. As Chisholm alluded to, there is a Law Enforcement AP Meeting in July where they are going to take final action and finalize these. We will incorporate Mr. Boyles' comments concerning state attorneys. If there is any other business pertaining to the Law Enforcement of the Year Award. Thank you, Chisholm, we are done.

CAPTAIN FRAMPTON: Thank you, I appreciate your efforts in helping us get this far.

MR. GEIGER: Thank you; I appreciate all your work. Okay, one other piece of business. Since the last meeting, we received a letter from Jim Oppenborn, who is the artificial reef coordinator for St. Lucie County. The South Atlantic Council created a couple of SMZ sites off that county. He is a very diligent worker with regard to those artificial reefs and the artificial reef program.

He has identified some concerns with the use of unauthorized gear on those particular sites and has noted that there is a lack of information available to the public concerning the regulations and the restrictions pertaining to the use of those sites. I guess the easiest way to do this, possibly, is to have our information office provide some form of public outreach. Kim, are you up on this?

MS. IVERSON: Yes, we have worked closely together in other areas to do outreach, especially for the Oculina Bank. From the e-mail that I gathered – it was a quite lengthy e-mail with several attachments, but the gist of it I think is he just wants us to partner with him to do some additional outreach for those SMZs within that St. Lucie County area.

I think we could possibly do that; Jim providing the information and the means to do that more localized outreach specific for those SMZs. It could possibly lead to a publication where we could address SMZ management in general from a council standpoint for more of a regional thing, but start with Jim and work locally to provide that information and work with them.

I don't know exactly the specifics that he has in mind, if it would be through some publications or some additional information on a website partner, but we could certainly explore that. We are planning to have an INE Advisory Panel Meeting coming up this fall so that may be an appropriate time to address that and look more at the specifics of what he has in mind. He did not outline any specifics in the email but I do know that he is very prolific with his outreach materials and we could work – we have partnered together in the past.

MR. HARTIG: Yes, George, and certainly SERO sends out those blue sheets quite often addressing fisheries regulations and this may be one of those, a reminder or something like that for the SMZs. That may be appropriate for that. At least that way all the permit holders will be apprised of that or maybe even a more local type sending out of those areas that would be affected.

MR. ROBSON: Mr. Chairman and Kim, we would like to be involved in this a little bit. We have, of course, the state artificial reef management program and it works both in state and federal waters and coordinates with permitting through the core process. There are very specific standards for materials. We also have an outreach component to that through our website. Our folks might be able to help participate in this kind of an outreach effort in terms of the SMZs.

MS. IVERSON: That may be a more appropriate avenue is looking at it from the state level because he is looking at it very localized in St. Lucie County and his area of expertise and where they are much more familiar with the SMZs that are currently there.

I think he is looking at outreach to advise fishermen that are fishing out of St. Lucie County of the SMZ requirements that are there. Those same requirements apply to other SMZs and it could be a statewide thing where it could expand for the state of Florida and that would be a really good avenue to pursue.

MR. GEIGER: All right, so it sounds like you are on top of it, Kim, and you are going to work with state and we are going to attack this information outreach. Let me ask one additional question. In Key West here, how do we go about in Florida distributing the regulations' brochure?

MS. IVERSON: The regulation brochures are drop-shipped when they are printed to all of the state agencies and the law enforcement offices throughout the state, of course, in the South Atlantic Region and down in Monroe County and the Keys; also through the Sea Grant offices. Doug Gregory receives shipments and then we regularly update or send additional copies and then we have the current two-page summary for the snapper grouper regulations because they are changing rapidly. Those offices receive them and then as requested at the local level.

MR. GEIGER: Does everybody who is on your mailing list receive a copy as well on the council?

MS. IVERSON: That is correct. We had over 5,000 copies that went out to individuals that were on the mailing list. Of course, all the NOAA Fisheries offices receive them, too, and the sanctuaries. I am trying to think if there are other offices here in the Keys, but all of those folks receive them.

MR. GEIGER: Great, thanks very much. Okay, Myra, do you have anything to add? Anybody have anything else under other business they would like to discuss or bring up? Seeing no other business, we are adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 o'clock a.m., June 13, 2011.)

Certified By: _____ Date: _____

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July 2011

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PLEASE SIGN IN
Please sign in so that we will have a record of your attendance at each meeting, and so that your name may be included in the minutes.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
June 13, 2011
Key West, FL 33040

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