

**SUMMARY REPORT
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Charleston, South Carolina
September 15, 2009**

The Law Enforcement Committee met the morning of September 15, 2009 in Charleston, South Carolina. The minutes from the December 2006 Law Enforcement Committee were approved. The Committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

1. Law Enforcement Advisory Panel Motions

Bob Mahood briefed the Committee on the seven motions approved at the August 13-14, 2009 Law Enforcement meeting. It was not necessary for the Committee to take any action on these motions as they will be considered by the appropriate committee, primarily the Snapper Grouper and Ecosystem-Based Management.

2. Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award

Based on a recommendation from the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel, the Committee discussed establishing a Law Enforcement Officer of the year award. A motion was approved to move forward with developing an award program and staff was directed to review similar established programs, develop the details for a Council award and present it to the Council at the December 2009 meeting.

3. Law Enforcement Reporting Format

Bob briefed the Committee on the on-going efforts through the State/Federal Joint Enforcement Agreement Program to standardize the reporting of fishery violations. The Law Enforcement Advisory Panel had requested the Council provide any input they may have. The Committee members agreed that the violation reporting format currently provided by the NMFS OLE met the Council's needs for this information.

MOTION: THE SAFMC ESTABLISH A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD, THE CRITERIA TO BE DEVELOPED OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS; INCLUDE FEDERAL, STATE, COAST GUARD, PROSECUTORS, AND ALL OTHERS IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PROCESS.

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

