

**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Atlantic Beach, North Carolina**  
**December 7, 2009**

The Law Enforcement Committee met the afternoon of December 7, 2009 in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. The minutes from the September 2009 Law Enforcement Committee were approved. The Committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

**1. Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award**

Chairman Geiger directed members to Attachment 1 where he noted that staff had provided a comprehensive list of law enforcement reward programs from a number state, federal and other sources. Bob Mahood went over a range of examples that could be used as a template for the Council's development of an award program.

Chairman Geiger suggested that the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel was the proper group to develop the nomination criteria, review nominations and recommend a candidate or slate of candidates to the Committee for the award. It was determined there should be one annual award.

Staff was directed to begin the process by contacting the LEAP members prior to the next meeting, with the goal of presenting the first award at the September 2010 meeting.

It was suggested staff look at the NC Wildlife Federation's award program as an additional resource.

**2. Surveillance and Enforcement of Remote Marine Protected Areas (SERMA) Workshop**

Myra Brouwer briefed the Committee on her attendance at the SERMA workshop in Washington D.C. The purpose of this workshop was to guide the production of a technical options paper on surveillance and enforcement of remote marine protected areas throughout the world. A summary document addressing the conclusions and recommendations from the workshop is being prepared and will be available shortly.

### **3. Coral Program FY 2010 Proposal**

Myra explained that the Council, as part of our Coral Reef Conservation grant program funding, is proposing to fund a law enforcement related project based on the SERMA program. The project (a two day workshop) will make this effort applicable to our region with the goal of enhancing the effectiveness of MPAs by addressing improved enforcement and monitoring techniques. The project will be submitted as part of our 2010 Coral Grant request.

### **4. Spanish Mackerel Net Issue**

Chairman Geiger explained that the issue is when a vessel exceeds its trip limit in one set and splits its net to transfer it (and the fish) onto another vessel. One or both of the vessels could be in violation of having more than the allowable two nets on board at the time of the transfer. Ben Hartig then provided additional background. It was determined that Ben and Monica would meet prior to the full Council session to work on a solution to present to the Council.

### **STAFF DIRECTION**

**Staff was directed to contact the LEAP members prior to the next meeting to begin the process of developing the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.**