

**SUMMARY REPORT  
FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE  
Raleigh, NC  
December 4, 2011**

The SAFMC Law Enforcement Committee met on December 4, 2011 in Raleigh, NC. The Committee discussed the following:

**Briefing on Headboat Misreporting Issue**

In June 2011 the Council requested further details on suspected misreporting on headboat and logbook information. Otha Easley briefed the Committee on this issue stating that the misreported information dated back to 5-10 years ago. The SEFSC did not wish to seek enforcement action for incidents that occurred so long ago; however, stakeholders should be aware that submitting false information can have negative repercussions since assessment of the status of stocks is compromised. Otha stated that the SEFSC wanted to assure the Council that, if evidence of misreporting were brought forward, enforcement action would be sought.

**Optimization of Surveillance and Enforcement of Federal Fisheries in the Southeastern US**

Dr. Sandra Brooke, Director of Coral Conservation for the Marine Conservation Institute and member of the Coral Advisory Panel, gave a presentation on surveillance and enforcement capacity in the southeast region as it pertains to remote protected areas. The project was funded through the Council's 2010 Coral Reef Conservation Program grant and builds on the Marine Conservation Institute's technical review of global surveillance and enforcement technologies. The project's objective was to provide an assessment of surveillance and enforcement capacity in the South Atlantic region as well as recommendations for optimization. Dr. Brooke gave an overview of feedback obtained during a workshop that was conducted in July 2010 to gather input from regional law enforcement professionals in the region. Selected recommendations included:

- Investigate potential effect and capability of changing civil provisions in MSA to criminal
- Implement VMS in snapper grouper fishery for SAFMC region
- Introduce use of Automatic Identification System (AIS) for monitoring fishing vessel activity
- Address boundary placement - how much of an enforcement challenge are the irregular boundaries
- Publicize successful case outcomes
- Increase training of state LE by NOAA OLE by scheduling regular classroom and at sea sessions
- Create a joint LE forum for sharing information and coordinating enforcement actions
- Create centralized database for regulation information (SAFMC)
- Use social media to disseminate information

The Law Enforcement Committee requested that NOAA GC provide further information at a subsequent meeting on the lack of criminal provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

A final report on this project will be distributed to the Council in early 2012.

**Other Business**

The Law Enforcement Committee received a briefing from Otha Easley on the availability of NOAA's draft law enforcement priorities. The comment period extends through January 9, 2012. The Council can submit comments on the draft priorities.

The Law Enforcement Committee made no motions.