

**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY PANEL MEETING**  
**Jekyll Island, Georgia**  
**March 4, 2008**

The Law Enforcement Advisory Panel met in joint session the afternoon of March 4, 2008 in Jekyll Island, Georgia. The minutes from the December 2006 Joint LEAP and Committee were approved.

The LEAP discussed the following issues:

**1. Law Enforcement's role in LAPPs:**

There was a general discussion how enforcement of LAPPs would be conducted. There are precedents that can be looked at in the Gulf of Mexico and the North Pacific. As the development of LAPPs continue, the regulations in those areas pertinent to enforcement for existing LAPPs should be reviewed. One of the major problems specific to the Southeast is multiple landing sites. It is critical that a landing notification system be required for fishermen.

**2. Circle hooks:**

The required use of circle hooks was discussed. The consensus was that enforcing a regulation requiring circle hooks was difficult. Problems include the definition of circle hooks, species being targeted, differences in trolling and bottom fishing, etc. The consensus was that use of circle hooks is a good ethic to instill in fishermen through education, but not by regulation.

**3. Spiny Lobster:**

There was a general discussion of the status of the effort to address imports.

**4. Aquaculture:**

There was general discussion of the Gulf aquaculture program. The LEAP would like to be included early on in the process if the South Atlantic Council decides to move forward with any aquaculture plans.

**5. Oculina banks, HAPCs, MPAs and other closed areas:**

There was discussion of a number of issues addressing closed areas, most specifically the proposed Coral HAPC. Myra Brouwer briefed the LEAP on the proposed deepwater coral HAPC and consideration relative to the golden crab fishery. Following are comments and recommendations relative to the HAPC:

- a. The LEAP's previous comments and recommendations on MPAs also apply to the proposed HAPC.
- b. The LEAP does not support the use of buffer zones.
- c. The use of depth contours to delineate boundaries makes enforcement and prosecution much more difficult and is not recommended. However, if depths contours are used there should be latitude longitude (Lat/Long) points along the depth contour at intervals not

less than 10 miles apart, with lines drawn between the points delineating the boundary. Lines running north south and east west are most enforceable.

- d. VMS should be required for vessels participating in fisheries that have the potential to cause adverse impacts to the proposed HAPC.

**6. “Box within the Box”:**

There was a lot of discussion of the creation of a “box within the box” (BwB) that would delineate an area within the proposed HAPC for the golden crab fishery. Following are comments and recommendations relative to the BwB:

- a. There should be a notification requirement for vessels that will be fishing in the BwB prior to their departing on a trip.
- b. A vessel monitoring system should be required.
- e. All of the LEAP’s previous comments and recommendations on MPAs that relate to the BwB also apply (Lat Long boundaries, north south and east west lines, etc.)
- c. If the Council determines that the golden crab fishery will be allowed within the proposed HAPC without creating a BwB, the same recommendations apply.

**7. Sale of fish caught under the bag limit:**

Bob Mahood provided the status of Amendment 15B that addresses this issue. He also briefed the LEAP on recent information about the commercial fishery in North Carolina and the charter/headboat fishery in Florida, both of which depend on the sale of fish caught under the bag limit. The LEAP discussed these issues and maintained their current position of being opposed to the sale of fish caught under the bag limit.

**8. Items under Other Business**

- a. Bob briefed the LEAP on recently being contacted by NOAA OIG relative to a program review of NOAA Fisheries Enforcement.
- b. There was discussion about the new Recreational Fishing Registry and how it will affect state licensing and enforcement under the JEAs.
- c. There was a discussion of how enforcement under the JEAs will be affected when there is a Federal fisheries closure and a State determines its waters will remain open.
- d. Council staff support for the LEAP was discussed.
- e. There was a suggestion that the State LEAP representative be invited to attend the Council meeting held in their state so they can serve as a LEAP liaison.
- f. Lt. Chisolm Frampton was elected Chairman of the LEAP. Election of Vice-Chairman was deferred until the next LEAP meeting.