

Law Enforcement Committee Report

March 2012
Savannah, GA

The Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) met on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 in Savannah, GA. The LEC received a report from the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (LEAP) containing their recommendations on issues being addressed by the Council. The LEAP met on Monday, March 5, 2012. The LEAP's summary report is included below. The LEC had no other business to discuss and made no motions.

The Law Enforcement Advisory Panel (LEAP) met on March 5, 2012 in Savannah, GA. The LEAP had the following recommendations on developing SAFMC amendments and other items of interest:

Amendment 18B/Regulatory Amendment 12 (Golden Tilefish)

- REQUIRE VMS FOR THE GOLDEN TILEFISH FISHERY AND ALL HIGHLY REGULATED FISHERIES (FOR BOTH ENFORCEMENT AND SAFETY REASONS)
- CONSIDER A BYCATCH ALLOWANCE FOR THE LONGLINE GOLDEN TILEFISH FISHERY (SHOULD ONE DEVELOP FOR SNOWY GROUPE)

Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3

- REFER TO PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AREA CLOSURES (BOXES; FOLLOW AS CLOSELY TO LAT/LONG AS POSSIBLE, ETC)
- CONSULT 622.35 (i)(2) CFR REFERENCE TO STOWING GEAR AND TRANSIT PROVISION (PERTAINS TO MPAs BUT LANGUAGE CAN BE ADOPTED AND ALTERED ACCORDINGLY TO BE APPLICABLE TO THE DEEPWATER SHRIMP FISHERIES)
- IF TRANSIT IS ALLOWED THROUGH HAPCS, REQUEST THAT INDUSTRY INCREASE PING RATE FOR VMS
- THE LEAP FAVORS USING STOWING OF GEAR INSTEAD OF CORRIDORS FOR TRANSITING CLOSED AREAS IN ADDITION TO SPEED RESTRICTIONS (I.E., NO LESS THAN 5 KNOTS). IN THE EVENT MINIMAL SPEED IS NOT SUSTAINABLE, VESSEL MUST COMMUNICATE TO APPROPRIATE CONTACT

Golden Crab Amendment 6

- ACTION 10: THE LEAP RECOMMENDS Alternative 2: Eliminate the small vessel sub-zone within the southern zone that was originally established to protect against very large vessels fishing in the subzone
- ACTION 12: VMS ON GOLDEN CRAB VESSELS IS ENDORSED FOR MANY REASONS, NOT STRICTLY FOR ENFORCEMENT (I.E., SAFETY, INFORMATION ON THE "FOOTPRINT" OF THE FISHERY, ETC). THE LEAP SUPPORTS ALTERNATIVE 2, SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2C:
Alternative 2. Require all fishing vessels engaged in the golden crab catch share program to be equipped with VMS. The purchase, installation, and maintenance of VMS equipment must conform to the protocol established by NMFS in the Federal Register:
Sub-alternative 2c. The purchase of VMS equipment will be reimbursed by the National OLE VMS reimbursement account if funding is available. Installation, maintenance, and communication costs will be paid for or arranged by the shareholder.
- ACTION 15: THE LEAP RECOMMENDS ALTERNATIVE 2
Alternative 2. Establish approved landing sites for the golden crab catch share program. All participants must land at an approved landing site to participate in the program.
SITES SHOULD BE APPROVED BY NOAA OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND STATE AGENCIES.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award

- COUNCIL STAFF WILL DISTRIBUTE NOMINATION FORMS AND DIRECTIONS TO THE LEAP FOR THE 2011 LEYO BY THE END OF APRIL 2012

Limiting the number of black sea bass trips

- ENFORCING THE NUMBER OF BSB TRIPS MIGHT BE CHALLENGING. CONSIDER A CALL-IN/CALL-OUT REQUIREMENT, VMS, ETC. TO FACILITATE ENFORCEABILITY.
- TRIP TICKETS ALONE WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO ENFORCE. WILL REQUIRE ON-SITE ENFORCEMENT IN ADDITION TO TRIP TICKETS. VMS WOULD BE IDEAL BUT A CALL-IN PROGRAM WOULD ALSO BE FEASIBLE.
- DETERMINING COMPLIANCE AT SEA OF SUCH A LIMIT ON TRIPS WOULD BE PROBLEMATIC.

Amendment 18A

- HOW WILL REPLACEMENT TAGS WORK WITH A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF POTS (THE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENT 18A WHICH SPECIFIES 35 POTS PER TRIP)? CONSIDER A CALL-IN SYSTEM TO RECOVER LOST TAGS/TRAPS.