

**SUMMARY REPORT
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
JUNE 14, 2012**

The Law Enforcement Committee met on the afternoon of June 14, 2012 in Orlando, Florida. The minutes from the March 2012 Law Enforcement Committee were approved. The Committee received presentations on the following agenda items:

Law enforcement efforts in Deepwater Marine Protected Areas - NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Special Agent Otha Easley and U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Robert Foos presented data and related information on law enforcement efforts in the deep water MPAs. During the briefings, data were also presented on the number and types of cases made in the South Atlantic Council's jurisdiction.

NOAA General Counsel Cases - Karen Raine presented information on a number of cases that have been handled in the Southeast Region. She discussed a number of different cases indicating the fines and or NOVAs associated with the cases.

Selection of the 2011 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year - Chairman Harris indicated how the selection of the 2011 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year would proceed. He indicated that a ballot would be provided to each voting Council member during the Committee report at full Council. The members would vote at that time and the winner would be announced. The presentation of Law Enforcement Officer of the year will be made at the September 2012 Council meeting. He read a summary of each on the nominees' accomplishments and encouraged the Council members to read the detailed nomination material in the briefing book.

Mutton Snapper spawning issues - The Committee discussed the excessive harvest of mutton snapper during the spawning season from sights off of Key West, Florida. These sights are close to shore and both NMFS and FFWCC Officers have indicated that abuses of the mutton snapper trip limits are taking place. The committee discussed this issue and determined that the Snapper Grouper Committee should address the harvest of mutton snapper during the spawning season.

MOTION: Refer the mutton snapper spawning issue to the Snapper Grouper Committee.