

OVERVIEW

Joint Meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee and Advisory Panel

March 3, 2010
Jekyll Island Club Hotel
371 Riverview Drive
Jekyll Island, Georgia

The Law Enforcement Committee will, in a joint meeting with the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel: (A) receive presentations and provide input on issues related to enforcement of closed areas; (B) receive an overview of proposed closed area alternatives in Snapper Grouper Amendment 17A and provide recommendations, (C) receive an overview of allowable gear alternatives in the proposed snapper grouper closed area and provide recommendations, and (D) discuss including an analysis of the enforceability of proposed regulations in amendment documents.

A. Closed Area Enforcement

The LE Committee and AP will discuss challenges in monitoring and enforcing area closures. The Committee and AP will receive an overview of the issue regarding the number of waypoints along the western boundary of the proposed Stetson-Miami Terrace CHAPC, monitoring and enforcement of closed areas in the NE and NW regions, the current alternatives for the snapper grouper closed area in Amendment 17A, and a presentation on closed areas in the Alaska region.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Recommendations to Council on ways to monitor and enforce area closures, particularly the preferred closure alternatives in Amendment 17A.

B. Allowable gear in the proposed snapper grouper closed area

During the early development of Amendment 17A, the Snapper Grouper AP requested that an alternative to allow fishing for, possession and retention of snapper grouper species (with the exception of red snapper) in the closed area with spearfishing gear be included for analysis. At their August 2009 meeting, the LEAP recommended against allowing spearfishing in the closed area (see Attachment 4) because it would present an enforcement challenge. The LE Committee and AP will discuss refinement of the alternative to minimize law enforcement concern (i.e., no tackle on board when spearfishing). Similarly, the LE Committee and AP will clarify their position regarding fishing with longlines and pots within the proposed snapper grouper closed area.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Clarify position on allowable gear alternatives and provide recommendations to Council.

C. Analysis of the enforceability of proposed regulations

Amendment documents include detailed analyses of the biological, economic, social and administrative effects of proposed regulations. The LE Committee and AP will discuss the possibility of including an analysis of the enforceability of proposed regulations in future Council amendments.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Provide recommendation to Council on whether to include enforceability analysis of proposed regulations in future amendment documents.