

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2015 Law Enforcement of the Year Award

Nominee's Information:

Name: Scott McLeod

Position/Title: Game Warden VI

Agency/Department: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Mailing Address: 715 South Highway 35 Rockport, Texas 78382

Phone: (361) 790-0312

Email: scott.mcleod@tpwd.texas.gov

Nominator's Information:

Name: Henry Balderamas

Position/Title: Captain Game Warden

Agency/Department: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Mailing Address: 715 South Highway 35 Rockport, Texas 78382

Phone: (361) 790-0312

Email: henry.balderamas@tpwd.texas.gov

Please use no more than one page to respond to the following three items.
Attach your response to this cover sheet and mail to:

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
c/o Charlene Ponce/Phyllis Miranda
2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Nominations may also be submitted by fax to: 813-648-1711, or emailed to:
gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org.

1. Describe the nominee's current responsibilities.
2. Describe the nominee's significant contribution(s) to fisheries enforcement.
3. Describe specific qualities that make the nominee deserving of this award.

I hereby affirm that the information submitted herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that if any of the information provided is found to be inaccurate or untruthful, this nomination shall be removed from consideration for this award.

Nominator's Signature:  _____ Date: 11/20/2015

Scott McLeod

Current responsibilities:

Scott is a game warden stationed in Aransas County, a coastal Texas county. Scott is responsible for enforcing the recreational and commercial fishing laws in the bays and the Gulf of Mexico in Aransas County. Scott is the primary operator assigned to our 38-foot Safe-Boat patrol vessel, the P/V Holt. Scott is also responsible for enforcing hunting regulations, the Texas Water Safety Act, general peace officer duties, and a first responder to natural and man-made disasters. Scott also assists other agencies as needed. Scott is also responsible for conducting outreach programs in Aransas County.

Significant contribution(s) to fisheries enforcement:

During our agency's past fiscal year which runs from 09/01/2014 to 08/31/2015, Scott continued his high level of productivity. Scott issued 85 citations and 94 written warnings. Scott conducted 19 programs to educate our constituents. These programs involved educating school children on the importance of the various species of fish from our Gulf of Mexico. These programs also included our commercial fishing industry, local fish guides, and other agencies. Scott annually conducts a week long outreach program that involves approximately 250 fourth and fifth grade students. This outreach event educates students on Gulf species of fish and the students are also shown how to fish with a rod and reel. Scott conducted 553 hours of boat patrols on our coastal waters. Scott utilized our 38-foot Safe-Boat on many of these patrols. Scott utilized one of our K-9 units to assist during several patrols immediately after the opening of our Gulf of Mexico commercial shrimp season. Scott conducted inspections of local wholesale and retail fish dealers. Scott conducted dockside inspections of commercial fishing boats to insure compliance. During some of these dockside inspections, Scott educated commercial fish boat crews on state and federal regulations concerning Gulf of Mexico fish and fishing methods.

Describe specific qualities that make the nominee deserving of this award:

Scott is very knowledgeable of coastal fishing regulations both commercial and recreational. Scott is also very knowledgeable of our area waters including the Gulf of Mexico. Scott is always willing to share his knowledge with his peers, supervisors, and other agencies. Scott is called upon many times by his peers and his immediate supervisor for his knowledge. Scott is a very competent operator of our agency's boats. Scott can operate all of our agency boats and he is always willing to share his expertise in boat operations with his peers, supervisors, and other agencies. Scott always assists lesser experienced game wardens with boat operations. Scott is very mechanically and technically inclined. Scott has assisted with maintenance and repairs of our agency boats and motors. Scott's knowledge, expertise, and willingness to always assist, has helped maximize his District's budget. Scott continuously stays up to date with regulations and boating operations. Scott enjoys a very good reputation in his assigned county of Aransas and this reputation has benefitted our agency and his team by intelligence gathering and a solid working relationship with our local agencies. During the last six years, Scott has averaged the following: 143 citations per year, 132 warnings, 16 public programs, 527 outreach participants, and 577 boat patrol hours. Scott has consistently produced these good numbers and always asks what more he can do. Scott is well respected by his peers and has consistently been a very knowledgeable and productive game warden for our agency.