

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

IP Casino and Resort Biloxi, Mississippi

OCTOBER 19, 2016

**VOTING MEMBERS**

- Doug Boyd.....Texas
- Chris Blankenship.....Alabama
- LCDR Leo Danaher.....USCG
- Pamela Dana.....Florida
- Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

- Patrick Banks.....Louisiana
- Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- Roy Crabtree.....NMFS, SERO, St. Petersburg, Florida
- Tom Frazer.....Florida
- John Greene.....Alabama
- Martha Guyas (designee for Nick Wiley).....Florida
- Kelly Lucas (designee for Jamie Miller).....Mississippi
- Campo Matens.....Louisiana
- Robin Riechers.....Texas
- John Sanchez.....Florida
- Greg Stunz.....Texas
- Ed Swindell.....Louisiana
- David Walker.....Alabama

**STAFF**

- Steven Atran.....Senior Fishery Biologist
- Assane Diagne.....Economist
- Matt Freeman.....Economist
- John Froeschke.....Fishery Biologist - Statistician
- Douglas Gregory.....Executive Director
- Morgan Kilgour.....Fishery Biologist
- Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist
- Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
- Jessica Matos.....Administrative Assistant
- Ryan Rindone.....Fishery Biologist/SEDAR Liaison
- Claire Roberts.....EFH Specialist
- Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- Charlotte Schiaffo.....Research and Human Resource Librarian
- Carrie Simmons.....Deputy Director

**OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

1 Myron Fischer.....LA  
2 Troy Frady.....Lillian, AL  
3 Sue Gerhart.....NMFS  
4 Joe Jewell.....MS DMR  
5 Bill Kelly.....FKCFA  
6 Ricky McDuffie.....Orange Beach, AL  
7 Jack McGovern.....NMFS  
8 Joe Nash.....Gulf Shores, AL  
9 Bart Niquet.....Lynn Haven, FL  
10 Corky Perret.....MS  
11 Charlie Phillips.....SAFMC  
12 Rusty Pittman.....MS  
13 Bonnie Ponwith.....SEFSC  
14 Joe Powers.....SSC  
15 Lance Robinson.....TX  
16 Majo Sanabria.....CLS America  
17 Tom Steber.....Orange Beach, AL  
18 Albert Stinson.....Orange Beach, AL  
19 Mike Thierry.....Dauphin Island, AL  
20 Steve VanderKooy.....GSMFC

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22

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1 The Law Enforcement Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery  
2 Management Council convened at the IP Casino and Hotel, Biloxi,  
3 Mississippi, Wednesday morning, October 19, 2016, and was called  
4 to order by Chairman Doug Boyd.

5  
6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**  
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
8

9 **CHAIRMAN DOUG BOYD:** I am calling together the Law Enforcement  
10 Committee of the Gulf Council. I am going to read the members  
11 from our new list. Doug Boyd, Chair, and that's me. Then  
12 Lieutenant Commander Leo Danaher as Vice Chairman. Chris  
13 Blankenship is a member, Pam Dana, Dale Diaz, and Dave  
14 Donaldson.

15  
16 We have the agenda before us. It's Tab L-1. Are there any  
17 changes or additions to the agenda at this point, committee  
18 members? All right. Can I have a motion to accept the agenda?  
19 We have a motion and a second, and the agenda is accepted.

20  
21 The minutes are at Tab L-2. Are there any comments or any  
22 corrections to the minutes? Not all of this committee was here  
23 at the last time, but I will accept any changes from current  
24 committee members who see something in there that is wrong. All  
25 right. Do we have a motion to accept the minutes? It's been  
26 moved and seconded. Thank you. The next thing on the agenda is  
27 the Action Guide and Next Steps, Tab L-3, and Steven Atran.

28  
29 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**  
30

31 **MR. STEVEN ATRAN:** There is really two things on here. First of  
32 all, the Law Enforcement Technical Committee and the Gulf States  
33 Commission's Law Enforcement Committee, which is almost the same  
34 thing, have been making some revisions to their law enforcement  
35 operations plan and strategic plan. Steve VanderKooy is here,  
36 and he's going to go over those revisions. Since they do  
37 include the Gulf Council, the Gulf Council needs to approve  
38 those revisions or suggest any additional changes that you may  
39 want, and so that's the first item.

40  
41 The second item that's on the agenda is a summary of the Law  
42 Enforcement Technical Committee meeting report. However, almost  
43 everything that's in the report has already been gone over  
44 during the Reef Fish Committee or the Coral Committee or is  
45 about to be gone over with the strategic and operations plans.  
46 I will just have a couple of minor administrative items that I  
47 want to bring up when we get to that action.

1 **CHAIRMAN BOYD:** All right. Thank you, Steve. Next on the  
2 agenda is Review and Approval of the Gulf of Mexico Cooperative  
3 Law Enforcement Operations and Strategic Plans. Steve  
4 VanderKooy is here from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries  
5 Commission.

6  
7 **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF GULF OF MEXICO COOPERATIVE LAW**  
8 **ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS AND STRATEGIC PLANS**  
9

10 **MR. STEVE VANDERKOOY:** This is in the briefing material that you  
11 were sent. This is under Tab L. It's 4(a) and 4(b). I will  
12 just give you a quick overview at about the thousand-foot level.  
13 The LEC and LETC really just needed to clean up a few of the  
14 objectives to achieve the now seven goals which were laid out in  
15 the four-year strategic plan, which is 4(b) in your briefing  
16 book.

17  
18 Most of it was a lot of clarification in the language and a  
19 little catching up on the items and objectives that may have  
20 changed during the update from the last operations plan. The  
21 primary change was the addition of Goal 7, related to disaster  
22 response, which was in the previous operations plan, and the new  
23 goal was as follows. Goal 7 is the five states will work  
24 together for short-term response and long-term recovery from  
25 manmade and natural disasters.

26  
27 In 4(a), the updated operations plan, which is a two-year plan,  
28 again, most of those changes were to clean up the language to  
29 match the strategic plan and provide more clarification in the  
30 tasks that may have been accomplished already, are still  
31 ongoing, not yet been implemented, or are new, based on current  
32 needs. There are a few tasks that, looking at it now, didn't  
33 really fall into the most appropriate objectives, and so they  
34 are reorganized into other objectives.

35  
36 In that document, the operations plan, Objective 3.4 was  
37 inadvertently left out of the last operations plan revision, and  
38 so they added it back in as all new tasks related to coordinated  
39 enforcement efforts.

40  
41 Two new tasks were added under Objective 5.2, regarding the  
42 integrity of domestic fisheries products to address illegal,  
43 unreported, and unregulated, or IUU, fishing in the U.S. and  
44 from U.S. waters.

45  
46 Finally, under the tasks of Goal 7, which was, again, added  
47 since the last operations plan, it was listed as continuing, as  
48 the LEC and LETC are sharing post-disaster reports with their

1 partner agencies to encourage improvements in future disaster  
2 responses.

3  
4 It was a little bit of a painful process to update these two  
5 documents via conference calls, but there just wasn't enough  
6 substantive changes to warrant a face-to-face meeting, although  
7 it was offered, both by the council and the commission. We will  
8 revise the operations plan again in the summer of 2018, to get  
9 us through another two years, until the strategic plan needs  
10 revision again in 2020. If you want any details, I've got a  
11 red-line copy that I can go through of where things moved, but  
12 that's essentially the major changes.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOYD:** Any questions for Steve? As we all know, the  
15 cooperation between state law enforcement and Coast Guard law  
16 enforcement is extremely important. It's where the rubber meets  
17 the road in accountability, and we need to support and encourage  
18 catching the bad guys and giving them obstacles to doing what  
19 they do, at almost any cost, and I want to thank law enforcement  
20 for that. Steve, did you want to go over L-4(a) also?

21  
22 **MR. VANDERKOOY:** That actually covered both of those documents.

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN BOYD:** That covered both of them?

25  
26 **MR. VANDERKOOY:** Yes, sir.

27  
28 **CHAIRMAN BOYD:** All right. Anything else, Steve?

29  
30 **MR. VANDERKOOY:** Other than I guess, at the committee's  
31 preference, if you want to have some sort of a motion to accept  
32 those or make any further additions, we can make those, but we  
33 would like to get those approved, if possible.

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN BOYD:** All right. I would entertain a motion for  
36 acceptance of these documents. Chris.

37  
38 **MR. CHRIS BLANKENSHIP:** I move that the law enforcement  
39 operations plan and strategic plan be accepted.

40  
41 **CHAIRMAN BOYD:** All right. I have a motion and a second. The  
42 motion is coming up on the board. We have a motion that has  
43 been made and seconded to approve the law enforcement strategic  
44 plan --

45  
46 **MR. BLANKENSHIP:** It's to approve the law enforcement operations  
47 plan and the strategic plan.

48



1 **CHAIRMAN BOYD:** All right. Let me read it again. To approve  
2 the law enforcement operations plan and strategic plan. **Is**  
3 **there any opposition to this motion? Hearing none, the motion**  
4 **is approved.** Thank you, Steve.

5  
6 **MR. VANDERKOOY:** My pleasure.

7  
8 **CHAIRMAN BOYD:** Mr. Atran said a minute ago that we had already  
9 pretty much gone through the Law Enforcement Technical Committee  
10 report when we did committee reports, but, Steve, did you have  
11 something else that you wanted to go over?

12  
13 **SUMMARY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

14  
15 **MR. ATRAN:** Just a couple of administrative items that didn't  
16 make it into the other overviews. Right now, the Law  
17 Enforcement Committee for the Gulf States Commission and the Law  
18 Enforcement Technical Committee for the Gulf Council always meet  
19 jointly, or nearly always meet jointly.

20  
21 It's the same group, with the exception that the Coast Guard  
22 representative serves on the commission's Law Enforcement  
23 Committee. He is not a member of our LETC, since he is a  
24 council member. Other than that, the two committees are  
25 identical.

26  
27 They have been electing separate chairs and vice chairs, and so,  
28 each time they meet, we have two chairmen and we have two vice  
29 chairman. There was some discussion of maybe merging them  
30 together and just having a single chair and a since vice chair  
31 for the combined group, for efficiency and less confusion, and  
32 so that will be taken up, I believe, the next time we have  
33 elections. In the meantime, I guess staff was directed to make  
34 sure that there were no policy or legal ramifications involved  
35 in making that merger.

36  
37 The other thing that I wanted to mention is that the LETC was  
38 reminded that we need to get candidates for the next Officer of  
39 the Year Award. They indicated that each of the agencies would  
40 submit a candidate by December 1. If that's the case, that  
41 would not need to go back to the LETC. It would come directly  
42 to the council.

43  
44 Depending upon the timing and how much we have on the agenda,  
45 you could evaluate who you wish to give the 2016 Officer of the  
46 Year Award to in either the January council meeting or the April  
47 council meeting. That is all I have to say that wasn't already  
48 covered.

1  
2 **CHAIRMAN BOYD:** All right. Commander.

3  
4 **LCDR LEO DANAHER:** Thank you. I just wanted to ask, are we  
5 allowed to submit any Coast Guard law enforcement members as  
6 nominees for that award?

7  
8 **MR. ATRAN:** Yes. In addition to the state agencies, each of the  
9 federal agencies can submit one, and so the Coast Guard can  
10 submit somebody. Actually, since we have two Coast Guard  
11 jurisdictions, I suppose each jurisdiction could submit  
12 somebody, if they wished, and NOAA Enforcement could submit  
13 somebody, if they so desire.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN BOYD:** Dale.

16  
17 **MR. DALE DIAZ:** Steve, just a quick question. As far as -- I  
18 think it's a good idea to have one chair and one vice chair, by  
19 the way, if there is nothing that stops us from doing that  
20 legally. Are the chairs and vice chairs just elected, or do  
21 they rotate through each state over time and pick from those  
22 states?

23  
24 **MR. ATRAN:** No, they are elected. I believe we hold elections  
25 every two years, and anyone who is a member of the committee can  
26 be elected. There is no succession from Vice Chair to Chair or  
27 any sort of rotation.

28  
29 **CHAIRMAN BOYD:** All right. I didn't have any other business,  
30 but I would like to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Rusty Pittman.  
31 He is Chief of Parole for -- Not Parole. Chief of Patrol for  
32 Mississippi, and he wanted to say a few words.

33  
34 **OTHER BUSINESS**

35  
36 **MR. RUSTY PITTMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't mind that.  
37 It's a lot better than them calling on me in the commission  
38 meeting, and when, I step up there, they always say, would you  
39 please stand up when you're talking to us, Rusty? I'm used to  
40 that.

41  
42 I am Rusty Pittman. I'm Assistant Chief of Marine Patrol with  
43 the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. One thing I  
44 wanted to address is what Dale was asking. We are elected every  
45 two years. This past meeting last week, Scott Bannon was  
46 elected Chair of the LETC, and Grant Burton was elected Vice  
47 Chair of the LETC. I was elected Chair of the LEC, and Chad  
48 Ebert was elected Vice Chair of the LEC, and so every two years

1 we do that, and we're going to discuss about combining those and  
2 just having one chair and one vice chair for both committees.

3  
4 The main reason I came up was to thank Steve VanderKooy for a  
5 great job he did, and I don't know he put up with us through all  
6 of this with the operations plan and the strategic plan, and  
7 also to Steven Atran for his good advice during the whole time.  
8 We had a hard time getting together. We kept putting dates off,  
9 but we finally got together and passed it, and so I really would  
10 like to thank both of those guys. Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's  
11 all.

12 **CHAIRMAN BOYD:** Thank you, Rusty. Any other comments or  
13 questions for the committee? Then that is our committee  
14 meeting.

15  
16 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on October 19, 2016.)

17  
18

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