LETC Recommendations on Draft Framework Action:
Modification of Fishing Access in Eastern Gulf of Mexico Marine Protected Areas

GMFMC Law Enforcement Technical Committee/GSMFC Law Enforcement Committee
Joint Meeting Summary
Gulf Shores, Alabama
March 11, 2020

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This document includes the section of the LETC/LEC Joint Meeting Summary from March 11, 2020, on the framework action for the Modification of Fishing Access in Eastern Gulf of Mexico MPAs. The full meeting summary will be presented to the Council at a future meeting.

Closing Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps MPAS to trolling

Lasseter reviewed the framework action that considers prohibiting surface trolling in the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps MPAs. LETC members discussed the issue, noting the difficulty of enforcing the allowable trolling gear as the MPAs are far from shore, then made the following recommendations. As moved by **Pearce**, seconded by **Downey**, and with no opposition:

> **To recommend to the Council, Alternative 2 in Action 1 would be preferred for ease of enforcement and to combat potential non-compliance by eliminating the opportunity for vessels to disguise bottom fishing as surface trolling.**
> **Alternative 2:** Prohibit fishing year-round in the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps MPAs.

As moved by **Barker**, seconded by **Pearce**, and with no opposition:

> **To recommend to the Council, Alternative 3 in Action 2 would be preferred.**
> **Alternative 3:** The possession of any species of Gulf reef fish is prohibited year-round in the Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps MPAs, with no exception for vessels in transit.