

## Revisions to Council SOPPs Regarding Fishing Violations

### Joint LEC/LETC Meeting

October 18, 2022

Closed Session

At its August 2022 meeting, the Gulf Council reviewed and discussed proposed modifications to the Council's SOPPs and approved the following changes.

**Motion:** To approve the proposed revised language in Section 2.6.2 as presented.

- The presence of a fishing violation is an important aspect in consideration of an AP appointment. The Council has determined: 1) Applicable fishing violations include only violations of federally managed species in either State or Federal waters, regardless of the penalty (i.e., written warning, civil fine, criminal conviction); 2) Individuals are ineligible to serve on an AP within three years of the final finding of liability through adjudication, settlement, or default. A finding of liability is final after any applicable appeal period expires; and, 3) Vessel owners shall not automatically be held responsible for violations by a crew member when the owner is not present. If an individual who is currently serving on an AP is found to have a fishing violation that meets the preceding criteria, subsequent to their appointment, the decision to maintain or remove the individual from the AP is at the Council's discretion.

Motion carried with no opposition.