

**Law Enforcement Committee Report  
October 23, 2019  
Mr. Dale Diaz – Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda (**Tab L, No. 1**) as written. The Full Council Minutes (**Tab L, No. 2**) of the April 2019 meeting were approved by the Council at its June 2019 meeting and were provided as background.

***Agenda Item IV: Law Enforcement Technical Committee Meeting Summary (Tab L, No. 4)***

Staff reviewed the sections of the meeting summary that were not covered in other committees.

***Agenda Item V: Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Report (Tab L, No. 5)***

Council staff discussed the history of the Reports to Congress relative to Mexico and IUU fishing in U.S. waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Lieutenant Zanowicz provided a presentation on the Coast Guard's observations and interdictions of Mexican lanchas. Assistant Commander Barker provided a presentation on TPWD's enforcement efforts and interactions with illegally fishing Mexican lanchas. Both the Coast Guard and TPWD presentations highlight that the number of lancha incursions has not declined. The LETC requested additional support from the Council and the Committee approved the LETC's request.

The Committee recommends and I so move: **that the Council write a letter to the NOAA Office of International Affairs and/or the Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries to open communication and request an annual report regarding the specific impacts and measures taken by Mexico to address the Mexican IUU fishing issue. It would be important to note in the report the estimated take of red snapper by the illegal fleet and the economic impact that it poses against recreational and commercial fishermen in the U.S.**

**Motion carried with no opposition.**

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.