

**Law Enforcement Committee Report  
October 26, 2020  
Mr. Dale Diaz – Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda (**Tab L, No. 1**), and the minutes from the October 2019 meeting (**Tab L, No. 2**) were approved as written.

*Law Enforcement Technical Committee (LETC) March 2020 Meeting Summary (Tab L, No. 4)*

Dr. Lasseter reviewed the remaining sections of the most recent LETC meeting summary that had yet to be presented to the Council. Concerning the issue of illegal charters, LETC members had discussed the difficulties in executing covert investigations of charter vessels that are taking paying passengers fishing in federal waters without a federal permit. These investigations are time consuming and expensive, and the LETC requested that the Council recommend to NOAA that the JEA priorities be expanded to allow federal funding to be used to enforce charter for-hire permit violations. Committee members discussed the issue but did not provide a recommendation. Although not on the Committee, Dr. Crabtree noted that the issue regarding illegal charters came about after the states opened inconsistent state water seasons for red snapper fishing, which along with an increasing abundance of red snapper in state waters, created the demand for state-water red snapper fishing trips.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.