

**GMFMC Law Enforcement Technical Committee/GSMFC Law Enforcement Committee  
Joint Meeting Summary  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
March 20, 2019**

**Members**

Edward Skena, LDWF  
Patrick Carron, MDMR  
Jason Downey, AMRD  
Tracy Dunn, NOAA OLE  
Scott Pearce, FWC  
Jarret Barker, TPWD  
Cynthia Fenyk, NOAA  
Mark Zanowicz, USCG

**Others**

Joseph Scarpa, NOAA OLE  
Doug Boyd, GMFMC  
Roy Crabtree, NMFS  
Ed Swindell, GMFMC  
Jessica Stephen, NFMS

**Staff**

Ava Lasseter, GMFMC  
Donna Bellais, GSMFC  
Debbie McIntyre, GSMFC

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Carron. The agenda was adopted unanimously on motion by Pearce and second by Barker. The summary of the October 17, 2018 LETC/LEC meeting held in South Padre Island, Texas, was approved as written on motion by Barker and second by Downey. Introductions were made and **Carron** welcomed everyone.

**GMFMC LETC Session**

**Recreational Red Snapper State Management Programs**

**Lasseter** reviewed the new action for federal water closures that was added at the Council's October 2018 meeting, and informed the LETC that the Council is scheduled to take final action on the State Management Amendments at its April 2019 meeting.

**Historical Captain Endorsement Action**

**Lasseter** informed the LETC of the Council's preference for the historical captain endorsement action.

## **Review of Council Actions to Determine Law Enforcement Implications**

**Lasseter** reviewed the Council's Action Schedule with the LETC. LETC members did not identify additional actions with enforcement implications at this time.

## **Issue of non-permitted vessels taking paying passengers to fish for red snapper in federal waters**

**Lasseter** noted that during the state management public hearings, several for-hire operators expressed frustration with observations of state-licensed charter boats and privately owned boats taking paying passengers to fish for red snapper in federal waters. LETC members noted that they have heard these complaints and have recent, active investigations. They noted that such investigations are longer term and require more time and financial resources than on-the-water enforcement of fishing regulations, as officers must book trips undercover to make a case. LETC members advise for-hire operators to communicate with their state agencies about their concerns.

## **Developing a Possible Team of the Year Award**

The LETC discussed revising the Officer of the Year Award to allow nomination of either an individual officer or a team of officers by each state. The LETC proposed revisions to the Council's award form to accommodate submission of either nomination. The LETC also proposed revisions to the nomination process, as outlined on the attached form. The LETC then made the following motion:

**The LETC recommends the Council expand the Officer of the Year Award to include nominations for either an Officer of the Year Award or Team of the Year Award, and accept the proposed changes to the eligibility criteria.**

## **LETC Other Business**

Council member Ed Swindell asked about the needs of law enforcement, such as equipment and costs, that would be needed as the states take a greater role in the management and enforcement of the recreational harvest of red snapper. LETC members discussed their expectations and changes to enforcement.

## **GSMFC LEC Session**

### **Future of JEAs and JEA Funding Discussion**

Carron deferred to Dunn on this issue who reported that funding is expected this year although the amount of money and the allocation scheme are not available yet.

### **Status of Law Enforcement Post-shutdown**

Zanowicz stated that the Coast Guard did very little fisheries patrol with no violations during the government shutdown, but they are back to normal now. Pearce stated that Florida's biggest issue was permit renewal and this was addressed accordingly.

### **IJF Program Activity**

#### **Cobia Profile**

An update on the Cobia Profile was provided by Carron. This document is complete and will be submitted for approval to the TCC.

#### **Red Drum Profile**

The Task Force for the Red Drum Profile is in the process of being formed. The LEC representative on this task force will be Scott Pearce. The introductory meeting will likely be held in early June.

#### **Officers' Pocket Guide**

McIntyre reminded the group that this publication is now officially discontinued per this committee's recommendation at last fall's meeting due to the fact that it was not really functional anymore with the availability of apps, etc.

#### **Annual License and Fees**

McIntyre pointed out that she will contact state and agency reps approximately May 1st with a request for Annual License and Fees information for the year 2018. She displayed the previous year's publication and encouraged new members of this committee to contact her with any questions. This publication is printed in-house and a copy is sent out to the LEC, state directors, commissioners, and proxies. This publication is mainly used for historical reference, a way of comparing license and fees statistics.

#### **Law Summary (Red Book)**

McIntyre stated that she will contact state and agency representatives approximately mid-August requesting them to provide her with a high definition PDF version of their latest commercial and recreational saltwater regulations pamphlets. This publication is simply a compilation of all state/agency regulations into one spot and is primarily for historic use. She displayed last year's publication and encouraged new members to contact her with any questions. This publication is made available online only.

### **State Report Highlights**

Written state reports were requested in advance and only highlights were presented for time

purposes during state reporting.

Zanowicz provided an update regarding lanchas. He stated that the USCG is continuing to interdict lanchas off of the U.S./Mexico coast near south Texas. Detections and interdictions are occurring at a higher rate this fiscal year than in previous years. As of the end of February, they made 83 detections compared to 75 at the end of February last year. Additionally, they interdicted and seized 49 lanchas in FY19 compared to 29 at this same point in FY18. One of the reasons for this increased rate is due to the TML AEROSTAT, a prototype Customs and Border Patrol asset whose testing phase occurred earlier this year. The AEROSTAT had advanced RADAR capability that resulted in more detections. Additionally, the USCG is continuing to work on an updated analysis to estimate total number of lancha incursions per year. Once completed, this report will be sent to NOAA SE Region along with catch data from seized lanchas for potential use in future red snapper stock assessments.

Pearce made a motion to accept the state reports with a second by Barker.

### **Other Business**

Doug Boyd informed the group that this was his last meeting and he expressed his appreciation of having worked with this group for many years. He offered his assistance should he be needed on an advisory basis.

There being no further business, on motion by Pearce and second by Downey, the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council  
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year or Team of the  
Year Award  
Call for 2018-2019 Nominees

### Purpose of Award

To recognize an individual or team that has exemplified the virtues of professionalism and dedication, and demonstrated exceptional service by enforcing fisheries regulations in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Nominee(s) must be ~~an~~ active, full-time, paid, state or Federal fisheries law enforcement officer(s) or U.S. Coast Guard officer(s).
- Nominee(s) must reside and be assigned or attached for duty in one of the five Gulf states.
- ~~The duties of the N~~ominee(s)'s duties must be relevant to the enforcement of federal fisheries regulations in the Gulf of Mexico region.
- Nominee(s) must demonstrate a good reputation professionally and personally among his or her peers and communities.
- Nominee(s) must have maintained an outstanding level of productivity and professional achievement with a significant positive impact on fisheries enforcement.

### Award Criteria

~~Team Work and Public Outreach~~ – Nominee(s) excels in educating the public about regional fishery management issues and priorities.

Partnerships – Nominee(s) demonstrates intra- and inter--agency cooperation through team efforts or mentoring others and is dedicated to the federal management of Gulf of Mexico fisheries~~agency missions~~.

**Excellence and Innovation** – Nominee(s) is willing to go beyond the call of duty and continually seeks to improve efficiency on the job. Nominee(s) has identified means to increase constituent satisfaction or cost-savings for the agency and has taken steps to achieve implementation.

**Attitude and Leadership** – Nominee(s) portrays a positive perspective to fellow workers and the public, and takes personal responsibility for meeting commitments and solving problems. Nominee(s) demonstrates standards of

excellence and professionalism and exemplifies standards and conduct that reflect honesty and fairness.

***Achievements and Accomplishments*** – ~~Nominee's-~~The job performance of the nominee(s) demonstrates distinguished career-oriented accomplishments, which have assisted in fulfilling his/her agency's responsibilities related to the federal management of Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

### **Guidelines**

The nomination package may include a letter from supporting items such as letters from the nominee's agency heads/supervisors in addition to this nomination form. ~~performance reviews, official reports, statements, etc. It is recognized that confidentiality considerations may preclude the submission of some reports and related materials.~~ Nominations should be made for performance in the 2017 nomination calendar year.

Each agency may submit no more than one nomination for either an Officer of the Year or Team of the Year Award. Nominations are due no later than ~~March 23~~ February 1, 2018 ~~2020.~~ At its March meeting, the LETC will discuss the nominations and make recommendations for the top two nominees.

The Gulf Council will review the nominations in a closed Council session, notify the winning officer and his agency, and present the award to the officer at a subsequent Council meeting.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council  
2017 Law Enforcement of the Year Award

**Nominee's Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator's Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use no more than one page to respond to the following three items.

1. Describe the nominee's current responsibilities.
2. Describe the nominee's significant contribution(s) to fisheries enforcement.
3. Describe specific qualities that make the nominee deserving of this award.

**Commented [AL1]:** Modify form to be a fillable pdf, including fillable spaces for Award Criteria.

Nominations are due no later than ~~March 23~~February 1, 201820 (~~deadline extended~~).

Attach your response to this cover sheet and email to [gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org).

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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council  
c/o ~~Steven Atran~~Ava Lasseter  
~~2203 4107 NW. Lois Avenue~~Spruce Street, Suite ~~4100~~200  
Tampa, FL 33607

Nominations may also be submitted by fax to: 813-648-1711, or emailed to: [gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org).

Nominator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Law Enforcement Officer of the Year or Team of the Year Award Call for 2019 Nominees

## **Purpose of Award**

To recognize an individual or team that has exemplified the virtues of professionalism and dedication, and demonstrated exceptional service by enforcing fisheries regulations in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

- Nominee(s) must be active, full-time, paid, state or Federal fisheries law enforcement officer(s) or U.S. Coast Guard officer(s).
- Nominee(s) must reside and be assigned or attached for duty in one of the five Gulf states.
- The duties of the nominee(s) must be relevant to the enforcement of federal fisheries regulations in the Gulf of Mexico region.
- Nominee(s) must demonstrate a good reputation professionally and personally among his or her peers and communities.
- Nominee(s) must have maintained an outstanding level of productivity and professional achievement with a significant positive impact on fisheries enforcement.

## **Award Criteria**

**Public Outreach** – Nominee(s) excels in educating the public about regional fishery management issues and priorities.

**Partnerships** – Nominee(s) demonstrates intra- and inter-agency cooperation through team efforts or mentoring others and is dedicated to the federal management of Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

**Excellence and Innovation** – Nominee(s) is willing to go beyond the call of duty and continually seeks to improve efficiency on the job. Nominee(s) has identified means to increase constituent satisfaction or cost-savings for the agency and has taken steps to achieve implementation.

**Attitude and Leadership** – Nominee(s) portrays a positive perspective to fellow workers and the public, and takes personal responsibility for meeting commitments and solving problems. Nominee(s) demonstrates standards of

excellence and professionalism and exemplifies standards and conduct that reflect honesty and fairness.

***Achievements and Accomplishments*** – The job performance of the nominee(s) demonstrates distinguished career-oriented accomplishments, which have assisted in fulfilling his/her agency’s responsibilities related to the federal management of Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

### **Guidelines**

The nomination package may include a letter from the nominee’s agency heads/supervisors in addition to this nomination form. Nominations should be made for performance in the nomination calendar year.

Each agency may submit no more than one nomination for either an Officer of the Year or Team of the Year Award. Nominations are due no later than February 1, 2020. At its March meeting, the LETC will discuss the nominations and make recommendations for the top two nominees.

The Gulf Council will review the nominations in a closed Council session, notify the winning officer and his agency, and present the award to the officer at a subsequent Council meeting.

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council  
2017 Law Enforcement of the Year Award

**Nominee's Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator's Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use no more than one page to respond to the following three items.

1. Describe the nominee's current responsibilities.
2. Describe the nominee's significant contribution(s) to fisheries enforcement.
3. Describe specific qualities that make the nominee deserving of this award.
4. [Award criteria]

Nominations are due no later than February 1, 2020.

Attach your response to this cover sheet and email to [gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org).

:

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council  
c/o Ava Lasseter  
4107 W. Spruce Street, Suite 200  
Tampa, FL 33607

Nominations may also be submitted by fax to: 813-648-1711, or emailed to: [gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org).

Nominator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_