

**Law Enforcement Committee Report**  
**January 26, 2026**  
**General Joe Spraggins, Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda (**Tab L, No. 1**) as written and approved the minutes (**Tab L, No. 2**) of the January 2025 meeting.

*Additional Tier of ID Number Size for Federally permitted Vessels between 25 feet and 65 feet*

Staff noted that Law Enforcement Technical Committee (LETC) members considered alternatives to current ID requirements for federally permitted vessels and approved a motion to reaffirm the current sizing for official number displays as adequate to assist in enforcement. In response to Committee questions, an LETC member stated the identifying display should be of sufficient size and contrast to allow identification from a standoff distance for law enforcement vessel and aircraft.

*Update on 20-fathom Boundary Line Closure*

Staff indicated that the LETC discussed the Council's preferred alternative in Reef Fish Amendment 62 to eliminate the February 1 through March 31 recreational closed season for shallow water grouper in federal waters seaward of the 20-fathom boundary. The LETC concurred with the Council's decision and did not recommend any additional action.

*State and Federal Boundary Line for Reef Fish*

Staff noted that the LETC discussed the federal boundary for the management of Gulf reef fish and determined that currently, there are no enforcement issues related to the boundary. Staff provided a map with the approved 9-nautical mile reef fish management boundary line and noted that the map is available for management and use by stakeholders.

*Nomination Process for Officer/Team of the Year*

Staff noted that LETC members inquired about the need for a virtual closed session meeting to discuss nominations. LETC members suggested that the webinar may no longer be necessary because the electronic submission of nominees would suffice. The LETC approved a motion to streamline the nomination process by removing the closed session webinar for discussing nominees. The Committee concurred and approved the following motion:

The Committee recommends, and I so **move, to remove the closed session of the LETC to discuss the officer / team of the year nominations.**

*Motion carried with no opposition.*

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.