

GOAL 3 IMPROVE STAKEHOLDER COMPLIANCE WITH COMMISSION FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS.

This goal recognizes that fisheries managers, law enforcement personnel, and stakeholders have a shared responsibility to promote compliance with fisheries management measures. Stakeholder support and compliance is vital to successful management plans. Activities under this goal seek to increase and improve the extent to which states coordinate their law enforcement efforts with each other and with federal agencies. Commission members recognize that adequate and consistent enforcement of fisheries rules must keep pace with increasingly complex management activity, including thorough reviews of proposed management measures for enforceability. Achieving this goal will improve the effectiveness of the Commission's fishery management plans.

Strategies to Achieve Goal

3.1 Develop practical compliance requirements recognizing fiscal limitations.

Task 3.1.1 – Identify compliance requirements that the states are unable to implement due to fiscal limitations in the annual FMP Reviews *and assess enforcement resources available or needed to address new (proposed) management actions.*

Task 3.1.2 – Review effectiveness of the “Guidelines for Resource Managers” to evaluate its ability to inform fishery managers and affect their decisions in the regulatory process. Work with LEC Coordinator to ensure the input of the LEC is received throughout the management process.

Task 3.1.3 – Evaluate enforceability of management options proposed in FMPs, amendments, addenda and conservation equivalency proposals.

3.2 Evaluate effectiveness of enforcement and compliance measures of fisheries management programs.

Task 3.2.1 – Report on the enforceability of existing FMPs as part of the annual compliance review for each species.

Task 3.2.2 – Engage and support NMFS Office of Law Enforcement and USFWS Chiefs to improve communication and coordination between states and federal enforcement agencies.

Task 3.2.3 – Report on enforcement issues associated with differing federal, interstate, and state regulations.

Task 3.2.4 – Evaluate and report on states ability to effectively close (communicate and enforce) recreational fisheries in-season through emergency or other actions.

Task 3.2.5 – Evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the Addendum III to the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan (commercial fishery tagging requirements, see task 1.1.4)

3.3 *Enhance communication of enforcement and compliance issues to Atlantic state agencies and other law enforcement programs.*

Task 3.3.1 – Provide a forum to promote interjurisdictional enforcement operations targeting specific fishery resources (e.g. Atlantic striped bass, tautog, American eel). (see task 1.1.1)

Task 3.3.2 – Expand efforts to reach out to the law enforcement advisory committees of the regional fishery management councils and interstate commissions to seek opportunities for collaboration and ensure consistent law enforcement strategies.

Task 3.3.3 – Continue to evaluate the states' use of vessel monitoring system (VMS) data with increased access provided to the states. Determine if current level of access is adequate for state use of VMS data. Provide training opportunities, if necessary and resources permit, for state officers to ensure timely and efficient access to VMS data.

Task 3.3.4 – Appoint ASMFC representative to serve on the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Law Enforcement Committee. Monitor the Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs Association and exchange information as appropriate.

Task 3.3.5 – Exchange information on record keeping of violations, dispatching, and use of real time data to enhance conservation enforcement efforts.

Task 3.3.6 – Exchange information and best practices related to the enforcement of protected and endangered species regulations (See Task 1.9.3).

Task 3.3.7 – Continue to monitor compliance with newly implemented state and federal recreational registry requirements.

Task 3.3.8 – Develop strategies to improve communications among state and federal enforcement agencies prior to regional enforcement activities.

Task 3.3.9 – Review 2013 law enforcement efforts, results, and interagency cooperation regarding the illegal harvest of striped bass in state and federal waters. Use results of review for planning 2014 priorities and strategies.

Task 3.3.10 – Engage in annual review of NMFS enforcement priorities to ensure state enforcement needs are included. Review and provide feedback to NMFS on the new federal penalty structure.

3.4 *Promote and expand existing partnerships with state and federal natural resource law enforcement agencies.*

Task 3.4.1 – Provide forum for enforcement agencies to display successful development and use of enforcement technologies.

Task 3.4.2 – Conduct semi-annual presentations, by state and federal agencies, of enforcement actions and facilitate discussions on joint efforts that can assist in fisheries enforcement.

Task 3.4.3 – Share enforcement techniques and law enforcement success stories and provide regional training sessions (if resources allow) to enhance law enforcement efficiency along the Atlantic coast.

Task 3.4.4 – Evaluate the merits of establishing more timely communication among state and federal law enforcement entities to facilitate more frequent information exchange.

Task 3.4.5 – Explore the addition of a US Department of Justice representative to the Law Enforcement Committee.

3.5 *Develop and implement fishery management measures that include compliance incentives and foster stakeholder buy-in.*

Task 3.5.1 – Identify and explore fishery management measures that maximize stakeholder buy-in.