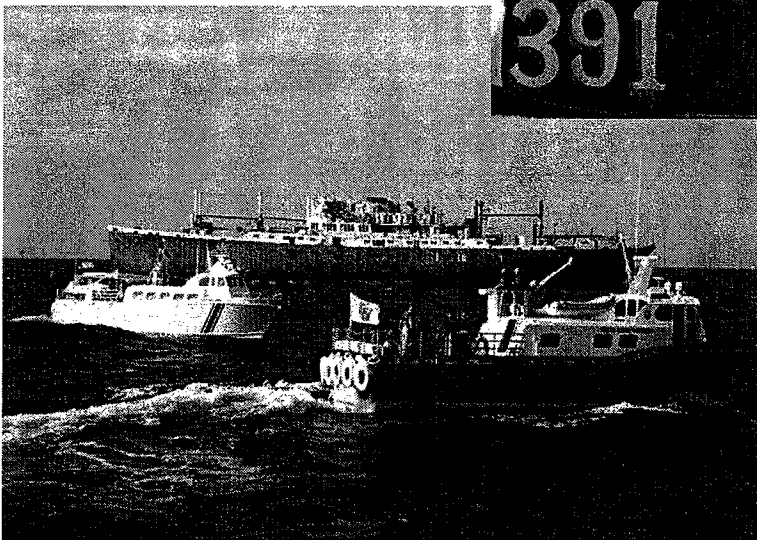
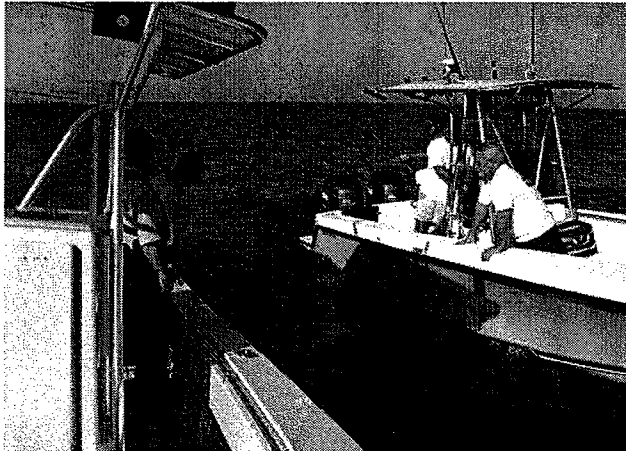


# Gulf of Mexico Cooperative Law Enforcement Operations Plan

2009-2010



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**GULF OF MEXICO  
COOPERATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
OPERATIONS PLAN  
2009-2010**

By the

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Law Enforcement Committee

And

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council  
Law Enforcement Advisory Panel

Edited by  
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Supplement to:  
Gulf of Mexico Cooperative Law Enforcement  
Strategic Plan  
2009-2012

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## Goals and Objectives

**GOAL 1: Provide professional law enforcement expertise throughout rule-making processes.**

*Professional law enforcement expertise and input are integral to the development, promulgation, and implementation of clear and effective regulations. (added implementation)*

**Objective 1.1** – Increase participation in the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) processes.

- Attend LEC and LEAP meetings in conjunction with GSMFC and GMFMC meetings.
- Evaluate current GSMFC and GMFMC regulatory recommendations/actions.
- Assist in the development of interjurisdictional state and federal management plans.
- Provide timely and substantive comment on GSMFC and GMFMC actions.  
(eliminated the bullets on the 2 annual meetings and work session since they are routine)

### Continuing Tasks

Task 1. The LEC/LEAP will attempt to attend all meetings of the GSMFC and GMFMC and schedule LEC/LEAP meetings in concert with the GSMFC spring and annual meetings. (previously recommended specific days for the LEC and LEAP to meet at the GSMFC annual meetings)

Task 2. The chairmen of the LEC/LEAP will convene monthly conference calls and request discussion items from the membership (upcoming proposals and law enforcement issues) and track previous agenda items to ensure completion.

Task 3. Meeting agendas will be developed based upon monthly conference calls, upcoming law enforcement topics, and issues pertinent to GSMFC and GMFMC business.

Task 4. The chairmen of the LEC/LEAP will ensure members of the LEC/LEAP have the agendas and briefing books for Commission and Council meetings as soon as possible prior to the meeting including copies of any FMPs being developed, amended or otherwise modified by the GSMFC and/or GMFMC.

Task 5. The chairmen of the LEC/LEAP will consult the members and coordinate input to the GSMFC and/or GMFMC on enforceability of regulatory/management issues pertinent to FMP development and implementation.

Task 6. Work sessions should be held, as needed, to continue strategic planning, implementation, and review of yearly enforcement operations. Work sessions would allow continued JEA Program discussion and opportunistic coordination and discussion of regional operations. (previously recommended semi-annual work sessions)

Task 7. Meetings will take place with GSMFC/GMFMC staff, NOAA staff, and other interested representatives to discuss law enforcement data pertinent to regulatory consideration and provide recommendations. (added NOAA staff to the list)

### **New Tasks**

(need to get inclusion of enforcement in NOAA management plans as well as the Council's and the Commission's)

Task 1. The chairmen of the LEC/LEAP will consult the members and coordinate input to NOAA on enforceability of regulatory/management issues pertinent to NOAA Secretary of Commerce plans.

***Objective 1.2*** – Strengthen enforcement's relationships with the GSMFC and GMFMC.

- Support communication between enforcement and GSMFC commissioners and GMFMC members.
- Provide bi-annual operating plans and interim/annual reports.
- Act as liaison between all law enforcement agencies and GSMFC commissioners and GMFMC members.

### **Continuing Tasks**

Task 1. The chairmen of the LEC/LEAP will ensure GSMFC and GMFMC rosters and subsequent updates are distributed to the LEC/LEAP members.

Task 2. The chairmen of the LEAP will ensure that the current GMFMC *Standard Operating Plan* (SOP) is distributed to the members of the LEAP as needed.

Task 3. The chairmen of the LEC will ensure that the current GSMFC *Law Summary - Rules and Regulations* is distributed to the members of the LEC as needed.

Task 4. The LEC/LEAP will provide information, guidance, and representation between all law enforcement agencies and the GSMFC/GMFMC.

(Inserted new objective for inclusion of enforcement reps in NOAA management plans)

***Objective 1.3*** - Increase participation in Secretary of Commerce management plans.

- Provide timely and substantive comments on Secretarial management plans.

### **New Tasks**

Task 1. Identify the plan coordinators and ensure the LEC/LEAP is added to the distribution list for comments.

Task 2. Provide comment to the plan coordinator at the appropriate time to ensure enforceability of regulatory/management issues pertinent to NOAA Secretary of Commerce plans.

**Objective 1.4** – Identify existing regulations that are effective, ineffective, or inconsistent. (previously Objective 1.3)

- Eliminate or modify ineffective and/or unnecessary regulations.
- Promote statutory and regulatory consistency among all state and federal agencies.
- Support the development of “user friendly” regulations.
- Provide expertise as requested by state or federal agencies.
- Identify enforcement workload impact and cost-analysis.
- Identify tools and technologies that provide effective enforcement measures.

### **Continuing Tasks**

Task 1. The LEC/LEAP will meet with the GSMFC/GMFMC to discuss enforceability and provide data pertinent to rules and regulations and proposed changes.

Task 2. The chairmen of the LEC/LEAP, with the support of its membership, will provide oral and written comments for the record, when appropriate, at state and federal hearings. Members may provide independent comment at those hearings, when appropriate.

Task 3. The LEC/LEAP will review for consistency state/federal laws and regulations applicable to interjurisdictional fisheries and/or relating to interstate transportation of seafood. (reworded for clarity)

Task 4. The LEC/LEAP will, as appropriate, participate in relevant state and federal legislative agendas.

Task 5. The chairmen of the LEC/LEAP will place current legislative topics on the monthly conference call agenda for discussion.

Task 6. The LEC/LEAP will identify regulatory enforcement concerns and report to the GSMFC and GMFMC.

Task 7. Available enforcement tools and technologies will be researched and discussed as a continuing agenda item at semi-annual LEC/LEAP meetings.

Task 8. Provide input to GMFMC Socioeconomic Panel on the cost analyses associated with enforcement of proposed regulations. (now a continuing task)

### **New Task**

