

**From:** Tom Steber <[tomzekes@gulftel.com](mailto:tomzekes@gulftel.com)>  
**Date:** Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 4:47 PM  
**To:** Emily Muehlstein <[emily.muehlstein@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:emily.muehlstein@gulfcouncil.org)>  
**Subject:** Amendment 45

Emily,

I am commending the Gulf Council for extending Amendment 45. As president of the Alabama Charter Fishing Association, GM of Zeke's Marina, GM of Fort Morgan Marina, GM of Zeke's Lady (Headboat), and a private recreational angler. The Charter Industry's only survival will be to separate from the Private Fishing Sector.

- a. Charter For Hire is the access for the non boat owning fishing public
- b. Charter For Hire cannot grow (there are no more permits)
- c. Charter For Hire in Alabama is responsible for spearheading and working with the State to build the largest permitted reef zone in the world. And is the reason why Snapper are so abundant off the coast of Alabama. (over the last 20 year Zeke's Charter Fleet alone, has built over 10,000 public & private reefs)
- d. The private recreational angler, with today's electronic technology. Has NO restraints, just growth.

Thank you for giving us and the American Public a chance.

Tom Steber