

Subject: question about commercial/charter dive boat
Date: Sunday, May 9, 2010 9:14 PM
From: Benjamin Bateman <capt_ben_bateman@hotmail.com>
To: John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: question about commercial/charter dive boat

dear council,

i currently work on a commercial spearfishing boat in the gulf of mexico that also has charter permits. as far as i understand the law right now only allows three persons to be aboard the boat during a commercial spearfishing trip. is there any way to get a waiver for the boat to allow for a fourth person during a commercial spearfishing trip? the reason for the fourth person is for safety. we dive with two divers in the water and this leaves only one person in the boat. if the one person in the boat were to injure themselves, have a heart attack, fall overboard, ect... the two divers in the water would be left at sea with no way to contact help. if we left two people in the boat and one person underwater this would violate one of the primary rules of diving, always dive with a buddy!

please let me know what you think and what we can do to make our boat more safe.

thank you for your time,

capt. Ben

Subject: FW: CREW SIZE
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 7:48 AM
From: Trish Kennedy <trish.kennedy@gulfcouncil.org>
To: Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: CREW SIZE

From: GJabd@aol.com [mailto:GJabd@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 10:58 AM
To: roy.crabtree@noaa.gov
Subject: CREW SIZE

Dear Council Members,

I support the letter below, written by Capt. Ed Walker.
Since the Commercial / Charter Boats are now required to have VMS, and the laws have been updated requiring commercial boats to maintain 100% accountability, I see no reason to keep the crew size at three, on a dual permitted charter boat while they are commercial fishing. I suggest, that the law be amended, allowing one more crew for the commercial trips.

I am a law abiding commercial fisherman, with a charter permitted commercial vessel.

I would also support a new strict rule that would revoke all permits from any commercial boat cheating in any way.

Thanks,
Bill Cochrane

Subject: FW: Crew restrictions on charter/commercial vessels
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 7:49 AM
From: Trish Kennedy <trish.kennedy@gulfcouncil.org>
To: Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Crew restrictions on charter/commercial vessels

From: GJabd@aol.com [mailto:GJabd@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2010 11:30 AM
To: rshipp@jaguar1.usouthal.edu
Cc: roy.crabtree@noaa.gov
Subject: Fwd: Crew restrictions on charter/commercial vessels

Mr Chairman, those of us who are dual permit holders that fish as Charter for hire and commercial fishing have been caught in a pickle. We have 2 federal regulations that are forcing us to pick which one we are going to violate. Please pass this on to all the other gulf council members so we can address this issue at the Mobile meeting. I will be there to talk with you and the council. I am forwarding these e-mails between myself and Capt Ed Walker .These e-mails explain our problem , and confusion on what we should do . We want to be law abiding fishermen but the conflicting regulations are making that impossible. Thank you for your help in this matter. Capt Gasry Jarvis

Subject: eliminate crew limit for duel permit holders
Date: Thursday, October 20, 2011 3:35 PM
From: JTHUNT@aol.com
To: John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: eliminate crew limit for duel permit holders

I own/fish a duel permitted vessel out of Key West Florida. I urge you to eliminate the crew limit restrictions of 3 people for my commercial trips. This is not necessary because the VMS requires me to declare any commercial trip with the targeted fishery. I do not mix charter and commercial trips. The current restriction discriminates against me because of my multiple permits.

Thank you for reviewing and changing this un-needed regulation.

Sincerely,
James M. Thomas
Tightlines FL5055LS