

Subject: FW: recreational AP

Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 4:55:21 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Doug Gregory

To: Charlene Ponce

From: gwbrown@gmail.com [mailto:gwbrown@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** GWB

Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 4:13 PM

To: FR WB <gwbrown@gmail.com>

Subject: recreational AP

I'm writing to encourage the council to convene an advisory panel of private recreational anglers to help address the snapper situation. I spoke briefly during the public comment time at the Biloxi meeting to this effect, and I sincerely think that (1) a way forward is possible, and (2) that such a panel could help to find a way.

Many thanks for your hard work on behalf of our fisheries and fishermen.

Yours,
Will Brown +

--

the rev'd george willcox brown iii, ssc

rector

church of the holy cross (episcopal)

4052 herschel ave.

dallas, texas 75219

www.holycrossdallas.org

www.livingchurch.org/covenant/author/frwb/

Subject: FW: recreational AP

Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 4:14:07 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Emily Muehlstein

To: Charlene Ponce

Can you upload this to the appropriate spot?

Gracias!

From: <gwbrown@gmail.com> on behalf of GWB <gwbrown@aya.yale.edu>

Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 4:12 PM

To: FR WB <gwbrown@gmail.com>

Subject: recreational AP

I'm writing to encourage the council to convene an advisory panel of private recreational anglers to help address the snapper situation. I spoke briefly during the public comment time at the Biloxi meeting to this effect, and I sincerely think that (1) a way forward is possible, and (2) that such a panel could help to find a way.

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Yours,
Will Brown +

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rector
church of the holy cross (episcopal)
4052 herschel ave.
dallas, texas 75219

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www.livingchurch.org/covenant/author/frwb/

Name	City	State	Postal Code	Country	Signed On
Brian Hartz				United States	12/24/15
Dennis McKay	Munford	Alabama	36268	United States	1/6/16
Burdette Jerrrie	Orange Beach	Alabama	36561	United States	1/6/16
Alfred Gallimore	Charlotte	North Carolin	28277	United States	1/6/16
Dejuan Tedder	Silverhill	Alabama	36576	United States	1/6/16
Ashley Shuler	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33701	United States	1/6/16
Melissa Fultz	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33710	United States	1/6/16
Wayne Schrader	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33701	United States	1/6/16
Greg Dreaper	Charleston	South Carolin	29414	United States	1/6/16
chris elkins	gloucester	North Carolin	28528	United States	1/6/16
Darnell Cate	Seminole	Florida	33772	United States	1/6/16
Kyra Jackson	Orange Beach	Alabama	36561	United States	1/7/16
Harry Lowenburg	New Orleans	Louisiana	70115	United States	1/7/16
Todd Tanner	Bigfork	Montana	59911	United States	1/8/16
David Krebs	Destin	Florida	32541	United States	1/8/16
Brad Kenyon	Tarpon Springs	Florida	34689	United States	1/8/16
Allen Walburn	Naples	Florida	34102	United States	1/8/16
Robert Gill	Crystal River	Florida	34429-2508	United States	1/8/16
Tom Ard	Orange Beach	Alabama	36561	United States	1/8/16
Ted Springer	Port Mansfield	Texas	78598	United States	1/9/16
Matt Gunnet	Raleigh	North Carolin	27608	United States	1/10/16
gary jarvis	destin	Florida	32540	United States	1/11/16
Scott Hickman	League City	Texas	77573	United States	1/11/16
Michael Kelly	Lanham	Maryland	20706	United States	1/11/16
Dean Cox	Santa Rosa Beach	Florida	32459	United States	1/11/16
Aaron Smith	Fort Walton Beach	Florida	32548	United States	1/11/16
Clarence Seymour	Ocean Springs	Mississippi	39564	United States	1/11/16
Stephen Hunt	Idaho Falls	Idaho	83404	United States	1/11/16
Brad Gorst	Palm Harbor	Florida	34683	United States	1/11/16
Stacy Combs	Ocean Springs	Mississippi	39564	United States	1/11/16
Trishna Gurung	Washington	District of Col	20037	United States	1/11/16
Bill Kraft	Englewood	Florida	34223	United States	1/11/16
Walter McKay	Montgomery	Alabama	36104	United States	1/12/16
Jim Ellenburg	Cartersville	Georgia	30120	United States	1/12/16
Jason Tuck	Fort Walton Beach	Florida	32547	United States	1/12/16
Ben Bulis	Bozeman	Montana	59715	United States	1/12/16
Tom Sadler	Verona	Virginia	24482	United States	1/13/16
Kirk Deeter	Pine	Colorado	80470	United States	1/13/16
Stephanie Cagley	Dallas	Texas	75206	United States	1/15/16
Brian Bennett	Federal Way	Washington	98023	United States	1/18/16
Rodney Smith Smith	Satellite Beach	Florida	32937	United States	1/18/16
Mike Cash	Venice	Florida	34285	United States	1/18/16
Ramsey Gregory	Elk Grove	California	95758	United States	1/18/16
Mike Mantei	Lebanon	Ohio	45036	United States	1/18/16
Derrick Todd	Bay Minette	Alabama	36507	United States	1/18/16
Tammy Richardson	Lafayette	Louisiana	70506	United States	1/18/16
George Poultney	Lake City	Florida	32025	United States	1/18/16

Sean Banahan	Seattle	Washington	98136 United States	1/18/16
pat Caffey	Miramar Beach	Florida	32550 United States	1/18/16
Lucas Robinson	Round Rock	Texas	78681 United States	1/18/16
Matthew Parson	Fairhope	Alabama	36532 United States	1/18/16
Justice Shaia	Portland	Texas	78374 United States	1/18/16
Rob Schneider	Wallis	Texas	77485 United States	1/18/16
Ray Stutzman	La Porte	Texas	77571 United States	1/18/16
Ronnie Allen	Springville	Alabama	35146 United States	1/18/16
Adam Tarplee	Palm City	Florida	34990 United States	1/18/16
Brian Jeter	Shalimar	Florida	32579 United States	1/18/16
Nick drew	Atmore	Alabama	36502 United States	1/19/16
Dustin Carlson	Draper	Utah	84020 United States	1/19/16
Elijah Bell	jay	Florida	32565 United States	1/19/16
Kathy Haddon	Largo	Florida	33773 United States	1/19/16
Wes Williams	Mobile	Alabama	36608 United States	1/19/16
LeeAnn McClure	Sandy	Utah	84094 United States	1/19/16
Jc Werks	Salt Lake City	Utah	84109 United States	1/19/16
Colby Trow	Harrisonburg	Virginia	22801 United States	1/19/16
Josh Cohn	Washington	District of Col	20016 United States	1/19/16
dominic scardina	Kennesaw	Georgia	30144 United States	1/19/16
Thomas DeCrosta	Jacksonville	Florida	32223 United States	1/19/16
David Murray	San Antonio	Texas	78216 United States	1/20/16
Ed Pitre	Galliano	Louisiana	70354 United States	1/20/16
Clyde Daughtry	Sopchoppy	Florida	32358 United States	1/20/16
Larry Huntley	Pensacola	Florida	32526 United States	1/20/16
james zurbrick	Steinhatchee	Florida	32359 United States	1/20/16
Mike Colby	Clearwater Beach	Florida	33767 United States	1/20/16
William Ward	Palmetto	Florida	34221 United States	1/20/16
Cynthia Berecek	Aspen	Colorado	81611 United States	1/20/16
Jerry Anderson	Panama City	Florida	32408 United States	1/20/16
Lois Byrnside	Dunedin	Florida	34698 United States	1/20/16
Robert Jones	Austin	Texas	78724 United States	1/20/16
Henry James	Land O Lakes	Florida	34639 United States	1/21/16
David F. Wolf	Palm Harbor	Florida	34681 United States	1/21/16
Lisa Schmidt	Palm Harbor	Florida	34684 United States	1/21/16
James White	Seminole	Florida	33772 United States	1/21/16
robbie williams	palm harbor	Florida	34684 United States	1/21/16
Roxane Meroles	Land O Lakes	Florida	34639 United States	1/21/16
Leslee Wencley	Metamora	Michigan	48455 United States	1/21/16
Jan Stiffler	Clearwater	Florida	33763 United States	1/21/16
Debora PERNICANO	Palm Harbor	Florida	34684 United States	1/21/16
Treva Kayler	Lenore	Idaho	83541 United States	1/21/16
Jayne Bell	Flint	Michigan	48532 United States	1/21/16
Cheryl Gallion	Bakersfield	California	93301 United States	1/21/16
Peter Asaro	San Diego	California	92126 United States	1/21/16
Myra Miller	Jackson	Tennessee	38305 United States	1/21/16
Sherry Soltis	Sparta	Tennessee	38583 United States	1/21/16
David Goddard	Davison	Michigan	48423 United States	1/21/16

Stacey Sosnicki	Palm Harbor	Florida	34682 United States	1/21/16
William Cochrane, Sr.	Galveston	Texas	77554 United States	1/21/16
Carol Campbell	Holiday	Florida	34691 United States	1/21/16
David Demus	Safety Harbor	Florida	34695 United States	1/21/16
Ken Chancey	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33740 United States	1/21/16
Nancy Revenaugh	Burton	Michigan	48519 United States	1/21/16
Kimberley Leighton	Roscommon	Michigan	48653 United States	1/21/16
Holly Wagner	Clearwater Beach	Florida	33767 United States	1/21/16
Sandra RICH	Flint	Michigan	48507 United States	1/21/16
Terry Papineau	Largo	Florida	33774 United States	1/21/16
Jodi Hirt	Largo	Florida	33770 United States	1/21/16
Priscilla Vincent	Mount Morris	Michigan	48458 United States	1/21/16
Peggy Gatliff	Largo	Florida	33770 United States	1/21/16
Louanne Ramsey	Clearwater	Florida	33763 United States	1/21/16
Kathleen Pietro	Pompano Beach	Florida	33062 United States	1/21/16
Douglas Pietro	Pompano Beach	Florida	33062 United States	1/21/16
Tony Gatliff	Largo	Florida	33770 United States	1/21/16
Linda Christian	Salem	Massachusetts	1970 United States	1/21/16
Barbara Weiss	Getzville	New York	14068 United States	1/21/16
Shenay Woods	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33712 United States	1/21/16
Martin and Susan Sch	Goshen	Connecticut	6756 United States	1/21/16
Debbie Drago	Grand Blanc	Michigan	48439 United States	1/22/16
Mark Hayden	Orange Beach	Alabama	36561 United States	1/22/16
Patty Zurbrick	Steinhatchee	Florida	32359 United States	1/22/16
Lori malmstrom	Honor	Michigan	49640 United States	1/22/16
Edward Villafranca	Clearwater	Florida	33764 United States	1/22/16
Emily Leatherberry	Orlando	Florida	32825 United States	1/22/16
Erica Stock	West Linn	Oregon	97068 United States	1/22/16
Robin Hayden	Orange Beach	Alabama	36561 United States	1/22/16
david schmidt	Columbia	Tennessee	38401 United States	1/22/16
mike richmond	largo	Florida	33770 United States	1/22/16
Laurie Powell	Alpharetta	Georgia	30022 United States	1/22/16
Tina Staff	Gulf Shores	Alabama	36542 United States	1/22/16
tim Austin	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33706 United States	1/22/16
Eric Naylor	Sewanee	Tennessee	37383 United States	1/22/16
Pete Umbdenstock	Gulfport	Mississippi	39501 United States	1/22/16
Haynes Roberts	Sewanee	Tennessee	37375 United States	1/22/16
Chuck Pruitt	Orange Beach	Alabama	36561-1964 United States	1/22/16
deborah walsh	Buffalo	New York	14214 United States	1/22/16
Rebekah Smith	Chapel Hill	North Carolina	27514 United States	1/22/16
Ty Thomas	Clearwater	Florida	33764 United States	1/23/16
Andrew Homolash	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33702 United States	1/23/16
ileda David	Sulphur	Louisiana	70664 United States	1/23/16
Bill Lacy	McDonough	Georgia	30253 United States	1/23/16
Susan Dempsey	Clearwater	Florida	33761 United States	1/25/16
stephen maisel	Palm Harbor	Florida	34683 United States	1/25/16
Ben Kurtz	Denver	Colorado	80223 United States	1/25/16
Patricia Morrison	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33709 United States	1/27/16

Jim Clements	Carrabelle	Florida	32322 United States	1/28/16
Marco Lerra	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33701 United States	1/29/16
richard hight	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33708 United States	1/30/16
Richard Salgado	Brooksville	Florida	34604 United States	2/2/16
Patrick Bixler	Tarpon Springs	Florida	34689 United States	2/3/16
Steven Lake	Port Saint Lucie	Florida	34953 United States	2/4/16
ALAN HUFFMAN	Edgewater	Florida	32141 United States	2/4/16
Claus Wiedemann	Titusville	Florida	32781 United States	2/4/16
Steve Irwin	Melbourne Beach	Florida	32951 United States	2/4/16
Robert L. Grohall	Sebastian	Florida	32976 United States	2/4/16
william russell	Sebastian	Florida	32958 United States	2/4/16
Jon Markey	Brooksville	Florida	34613 United States	2/4/16
andy bergeron	north bay		p1a3x6 Canada	2/4/16
Brandon scott	Lutcher	Louisiana	70071 United States	2/5/16
Donovan Joseph	Toronto		m4b3m8 Canada	2/10/16
George Anderson	Port Arthur	Texas	77642 United States	3/22/16
wayne de bellonia	port richy	Florida	34668 United States	4/5/16
Lannie Kline	Spring Hill	Florida	34608 United States	4/5/16
David Peters	Palm Harbor	Florida	34683 United States	4/5/16
Vaughan Yost	Holiday	Florida	34690 United States	4/5/16
Jeffrey Green	Ruskin	Florida	33570 United States	4/5/16
William Welt	Spring Hill	Florida	34610 United States	4/5/16
William Harriman	Brooksville	Florida	34604 United States	4/5/16
Larry Felty	Spring Hill	Florida	34607 United States	4/5/16
Steven Field	New Port Richey	Florida	34654 United States	4/5/16
DAVID Riffe	Port Richey	Florida	34668 United States	4/5/16
brandon riffe	Port Richey	Florida	34668 United States	4/5/16
Jeremy Unland	New Port Richey	Florida	34652 United States	4/5/16
Larry Brehe	Spring Hill	Florida	34608 United States	4/6/16
Paul Blake	Land O Lakes	Florida	34637 United States	4/6/16
RYAN MORGAN	New Port Richey	Florida	34652 United States	4/7/16
Mike Copeland	New Port Richey	Florida	34652 United States	4/13/16
Christine Knighton	Clearwater	Florida	33759 United States	4/14/16

From: Bob Zales 2 [mailto:bobzales2@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 11:12 PM

To: Roy Crabtree (roy.crabtree@noaa.gov) <roy.crabtree@noaa.gov>; Martha Bademan (martha.bademan@MyFWC.com) <martha.bademan@MyFWC.com>; Nick Wiley (nick.wiley@myfwc.com) <nick.wiley@myfwc.com>; Jessica McCawley (jessica.mccawley@myfwc.com) <jessica.mccawley@myfwc.com>; Pamela Dana (pamdana@yahoo.com) <pamdana@yahoo.com>; 'John Sanchez' <Jmsanchez22@aol.com>; Roy Williams (royowilliams@comcast.net) <royowilliams@comcast.net>; Myron Fischer (mfischer@wlf.la.gov) <mfischer@wlf.la.gov>; 'Robin Riechers' <Robin.Riechers@tpwd.state.tx.us>; Kevin Anson (kevin.anson@dcnr.alabama.gov) <kevin.anson@dcnr.alabama.gov>; dale.diaz@dmr.ms.gov; Douglass Boyd (douglassboyd@yahoo.com) <douglassboyd@yahoo.com>; Doug Gregory <doug.gregory@gulfcouncil.org>; Dave Donaldson (ddonaldson@gsmfc.org) <ddonaldson@gsmfc.org>; 'Johnny Greene' <fishgulfslores@gmail.com>; Leann Bosarge (Leann@Bosargeboats.com) <Leann@Bosargeboats.com>; Campo Matens (cematens@yahoo.com) <cematens@yahoo.com>; CaptainDavidWalker@gmail.com; Greg Stunz (greg.stunz@tamucc.edu) <greg.stunz@tamucc.edu>; Chris Blankenship (chris.blankenship@dcnr.alabama.gov) <chris.blankenship@dcnr.alabama.gov>; Kelly Lucas Ph. D. (kelly.lucas@dmr.ms.gov) <kelly.lucas@dmr.ms.gov>; 'Randy Pausina' <rpausina@wlf.louisiana.gov>; Edward W. Swindell (edswindell@aol.com) <edswindell@aol.com>; Mara Levy (mara.levy@noaa.gov) <mara.levy@noaa.gov>

Subject: proposed pri/rec ap

I am opposed to the Council formation of a pri/rec ap. I have many reasons for this opposition but the main reason is my personal observations of the Council process to appoint ap members. As most know I have been actively involved in the Council process for over 25 years and served on many aps, two for over 20 years each. While I have never been a Council member and have never been privy to the closed door ap appointment process, over my years of involvement I have been made aware of how that process is supposed to have worked and has worked.

While the members of an ap are supposed to be selected based on their personal experience and knowledge of the fishery they are appointed to provide advice on, in recent years many are appointed also because of the clear position they have regarding a fishery and how that opinion matches some Council member opinions. Some current council members recommend ap members based not just on knowledge and experience but because of support of where these Council members wish to move management. In past years an ap was populated with varying degrees of knowledge and a wide range of varying experiences. The aps were able to provide a wide range of knowledge and experience of all sectors with no clear advantage of any particular opinion of how a fishery should be managed. Recent ap appointments have shown to be done to provide a preconceived opinion to move a particular management recommendation and agenda.

The current ad hoc red snapper charter for hire ap and ad reef fish headboat ap are clear examples of a weighted ap. No less than 11 members of the charter for hire ap support one position and their most recent meeting was a classic example of a group working together prior to their meeting to develop motions, who to make the motion, who to second, and to control

the time of discussion. The ap agenda was moved like a well oiled machine where it was clear of the outcome before the meeting ever began.

There is a great fear among the pri/rec community that any Council pri/rec ap process will be done in the same fashion thereby adversely skewing the process. They feel that any recommendation coming such an ap will be weighted in favor of agenda that does not truly represent the pri/rec community of the Gulf. There is an outside process underway to gather information from the pri/rec community that allows free interaction of opinions with no one group trying to control the outcome. This external process should be allowed to work which will provide an independent range of management alternatives.

Thanks,
Bob

Capt. Bob Zales, II

www.fishpc.com

PH 850-763-7249

Fax 850-763-3558

From: Brian Hartz <bfhartz@gmail.com>

Date: Monday, January 25, 2016 at 1:50 PM

To: Doug Gregory <doug.gregory@gulfcouncil.org>, Emily Muehlstein <emily.muehlstein@gulfcouncil.org>, "council@gulfcouncil.org" <council@gulfcouncil.org>, Pamella Dana <fish@surelurecharters.com>, Juan Sanchez <john@blaylockoil.com>, Roy Williams <royowilliams@comcast.net>, "captaindavidwalker@gmail.com" <captaindavidwalker@gmail.com>, John Greene <fishorangebeach@gmail.com>, "Leann Bosarge (Leann@Bosargeboats.com)" <Leann@Bosargeboats.com>, Dale Diaz <dale.diaz@dmr.ms.gov>, Edward Swindell <edswindell@aol.com>, Campo Matens <cematens@yahoo.com>, Douglass Boyd <douglassboyd@yahoo.com>, Greg Stunz <greg.stunz@tamucc.edu>, Martha Bademan <martha.bademan@MyFWC.com>, Kevin Anson <kevin.anson@dcnr.alabama.gov>, "Kelly Lucas Ph. D. (kelly.lucas@dmr.ms.gov)" <kelly.lucas@dmr.ms.gov>, Myron Fischer <mfischer@wlf.la.gov>, "robin.reichers@tpwd.state.tx.us" <robin.reichers@tpwd.state.tx.us>, Roy Crabtree <roy.crabtree@noaa.gov>

Subject: Gulf Fishery Management Council Private Recreational Advisory Panel

Dear Emily Muehlstein and Doug Gregory,

I am really concerned that the Gulf Fishery Council will not convene the private fishery panel. This goes against any level of transparency and is a slap in the face to all fishermen.

I and the attached 139 fishermen think you should convene.

Emily, please distribute the attachment to all council members.

Thank you for your time,

Brian

Brian Hartz

727-575-7025 (office)

812-327-4770 (cell)

bfhartz@gmail.com

Name	City	State	Postal Code	Country
Brian Hartz				United States
Dennis McKay	Munford	Alabama	36268	United States
Burdette Jerrie	Orange Beach	Alabama	36561	United States
Alfred Gallimore	Charlotte	North Carolina	28277	United States
Dejuan Tedder	Silverhill	Alabama	36576	United States
Ashley Shuler	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33701	United States
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Wayne Schrader	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33701	United States
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Michael Kelly	Lanham	Maryland	20706	United States
Dean Cox	Santa Rosa Beach	Florida	32459	United States
Aaron Smith	Fort Walton Beach	Florida	32548	United States
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Stephen Hunt	Idaho Falls	Idaho	83404	United States
Brad Gorst	Palm Harbor	Florida	34683	United States
Stacy Combs	Ocean Springs	Mississippi	39564	United States
Trishna Gurung	Washington	District of Colum	20037	United States
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Walter McKay	Montgomery	Alabama	36104	United States
Jim Ellenburg	Cartersville	Georgia	30120	United States
Jason Tuck	Fort Walton Beach	Florida	32547	United States
Ben Bulis	Bozeman	Montana	59715	United States
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Brian Bennett	Federal Way	Washington	98023	United States
Rodney Smith Smith	Satellite Beach	Florida	32937	United States
Mike Cash	Venice	Florida	34285	United States
Ramsey Gregory	Elk Grove	California	95758	United States
Mike Mantei	Lebanon	Ohio	45036	United States
Derrick Todd	Bay Minette	Alabama	36507	United States
Tammy Richardson	Lafayette	Louisiana	70506	United States
George Poultney	Lake City	Florida	32025	United States

Sean Banahan	Seattle	Washington	98136 United States
pat Caffey	Miramar Beach	Florida	32550 United States
Lucas Robinson	Round Rock	Texas	78681 United States
Matthew Parson	Fairhope	Alabama	36532 United States
Justice Shaia	Portland	Texas	78374 United States
Rob Schneider	Wallis	Texas	77485 United States
Ray Stutzman	La Porte	Texas	77571 United States
Ronnie Allen	Springville	Alabama	35146 United States
Adam Tarplee	Palm City	Florida	34990 United States
Brian Jeter	Shalimar	Florida	32579 United States
Nick drew	Atmore	Alabama	36502 United States
Dustin Carlson	Draper	Utah	84020 United States
Elijah Bell	jay	Florida	32565 United States
Kathy Haddon	Largo	Florida	33773 United States
Wes Williams	Mobile	Alabama	36608 United States
LeeAnn McClure	Sandy	Utah	84094 United States
Jc Werks	Salt Lake City	Utah	84109 United States
Colby Trow	Harrisonburg	Virginia	22801 United States
Josh Cohn	Washington	District of Colum	20016 United States
dominic scardina	Kennesaw	Georgia	30144 United States
Thomas DeCrosta	Jacksonville	Florida	32223 United States
David Murray	San Antonio	Texas	78216 United States
Ed Pitre	Galliano	Louisiana	70354 United States
Clyde Daughtry	Sopchoppy	Florida	32358 United States
Larry Huntley	Pensacola	Florida	32526 United States
james zurbrick	Steinhatchee	Florida	32359 United States
Mike Colby	Clearwater Beach	Florida	33767 United States
William Ward	Palmetto	Florida	34221 United States
Cynthia Berecek	Aspen	Colorado	81611 United States
Jerry Anderson	Panama City	Florida	32408 United States
Lois Byrnsie	Dunedin	Florida	34698 United States
Robert Jones	Austin	Texas	78724 United States
Henry James	Land O Lakes	Florida	34639 United States
David F. Wolf	Palm Harbor	Florida	34681 United States
Lisa Schmidt	Palm Harbor	Florida	34684 United States
James White	Seminole	Florida	33772 United States
robbie williams	palm harbor	Florida	34684 United States
Roxane Meroles	Land O Lakes	Florida	34639 United States
Leslee Wencley	Metamora	Michigan	48455 United States
Jan Stiffler	Clearwater	Florida	33763 United States
Debora PERNICANO	Palm Harbor	Florida	34684 United States
Treva Kayler	Lenore	Idaho	83541 United States
Jayne Bell	Flint	Michigan	48532 United States
Cheryl Gallion	Bakersfield	California	93301 United States
Peter Asaro	San Diego	California	92126 United States
Myra Miller	Jackson	Tennessee	38305 United States
Sherry Soltis	Sparta	Tennessee	38583 United States
David Goddard	Davison	Michigan	48423 United States

Stacey Sosnicki	Palm Harbor	Florida	34682 United States
William Cochrane, Sr.	Galveston	Texas	77554 United States
Carol Campbell	Holiday	Florida	34691 United States
David Demus	Safety Harbor	Florida	34695 United States
Ken Chancey	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33740 United States
Nancy Revenaugh	Burton	Michigan	48519 United States
Kimberley Leighton	Roscommon	Michigan	48653 United States
Holly Wagner	Clearwater Beach	Florida	33767 United States
Sandra RICH	Flint	Michigan	48507 United States
Terry Papineau	Largo	Florida	33774 United States
Jodi Hirt	Largo	Florida	33770 United States
Priscilla Vincent	Mount Morris	Michigan	48458 United States
Peggy Gatliff	Largo	Florida	33770 United States
Louanne Ramsey	Clearwater	Florida	33763 United States
Kathleen Pietro	Pompano Beach	Florida	33062 United States
Douglas Pietro	Pompano Beach	Florida	33062 United States
Tony Gatliff	Largo	Florida	33770 United States
Linda Christian	Salem	Massachusetts	1970 United States
Barbara Weiss	Getzville	New York	14068 United States
Shenay Woods	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33712 United States
Martin and Susan Schnurr	Goshen	Connecticut	6756 United States
Debbie Drago	Grand Blanc	Michigan	48439 United States
Mark Hayden	Orange Beach	Alabama	36561 United States
Patty Zurbrick	Steinhatchee	Florida	32359 United States
Lori malmstrom	Honor	Michigan	49640 United States
Edward Villafranca	Clearwater	Florida	33764 United States
Emily Leatherberry	Orlando	Florida	32825 United States
Erica Stock	West Linn	Oregon	97068 United States
Robin Hayden	Orange Beach	Alabama	36561 United States
david schmidt	Columbia	Tennessee	38401 United States
mike richmond	largo	Florida	33770 United States
Laurie Powell	Alpharetta	Georgia	30022 United States
Tina Staff	Gulf Shores	Alabama	36542 United States
tim Austin	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33706 United States
Eric Naylor	Sewanee	Tennessee	37383 United States
Pete Umbdenstock	Gulfport	Mississippi	39501 United States
Haynes Roberts	Sewanee	Tennessee	37375 United States
Chuck Pruitt	Orange Beach	Alabama	36561-1964 United States
deborah walsh	Buffalo	New York	14214 United States
Rebekah Smith	Chapel Hill	North Carolina	27514 United States
Ty Thomas	Clearwater	Florida	33764 United States
Andrew Homolash	Saint Petersburg	Florida	33702 United States
ileda David	Sulphur	Louisiana	70664 United States
Bill Lacy	McDonough	Georgia	30253 United States

Fr From: Eric Naylor [mailto:enaylor@sewanee.edu]
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 5:57 PM
To: Doug Gregory <doug.gregory@gulfcouncil.org>
Subject: Rec. fishing

I strongly urge, yea demand that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to Convene the Private Recreational Advisory Panel to find management solutions for our sector.

Although, in some way, I support the move of snapper management to the Gulf states, it is absolutely ludicrous that we do not convene the private recreational advisory panel. Why would we not have two dogs in the fight attempting to find solutions that will break some of Council gridlock? Betting all of our future access on a Congressional strategy that has failed four times is not strong leadership and threatens recreational access. It is the **right thing to do** to have recreational anglers at the table explaining how our shared resource should be managed. We need to have our voices as recreational anglers heard, and if anyone blocks this idea it simply shows that those members do not care what recreational interests have to say. An advisory panel is the only way to proceed if we want to work together for our sector and be taken seriously by the Council.

Eric W. Naylor
Keenan Professor of Spanish Emeritus
[735 University Avenue: SPO 1221](#)
[SEWANEE, Tn. 37383](#)
% Sewanee(931)-598-5777
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SPANISH CELL [011 + 34] 68-686-0913
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From: GWB + <gwbrown@gmail.com>

Date: Friday, January 22, 2016 at 3:07 PM

To: Emily Muehlstein <emily.muehlstein@gulfcouncil.org>

Subject: the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council should Convene the Private Recreational Advisory Panel to find management solutions for our sector

Although I support the move of snapper management to the Gulf states, I also believe it important to convene the private recreational advisory panel. It seems to me that this would help to break the Council gridlock. Betting all of our future access on a Congressional strategy that has failed four times is not strong leadership and threatens recreational access. Having recreational anglers at the table helping to discern how our shared resource should be managed is the right thing to do. The voices of recreational anglers need to be heard, and efforts to block such a move can only be motivated by indifference or hostility to our interests. An advisory panel is the way to proceed if we want to work together for our sector.

G. Willcox Brown III

a recreational angler in Texas

From: McNeill Wells <mcneillwells@gmail.com>
Date: Friday, January 22, 2016 at 3:13 PM
To: McNeil Wells <mwells@viningsparks.com>
Subject: Fwd: RE Gulf Of Mexico Fishery Management Council matter

This email is in regards to your participation in the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

I would ask that the **Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to Convene the Private Recreational Advisory Panel to find management solutions for our sector.**

Although, in some way, I support the move of snapper management to the Gulf states, it is shocking that we do not convene the private recreational advisory panel. Why would we not have two dogs in the fight attempting to find solutions that will break some of Council gridlock? Betting all of our future access on a Congressional strategy that has failed four times is not strong leadership and threatens recreational access. It is the right thing to do to have recreational anglers at the table explaining how our shared resource should be managed.

We need to have our voices as recreational anglers heard, and blocking this idea sends the message that the Council does not care what recreational interests have to say. An advisory panel is the only way to proceed if we want to work together for our sector and be taken seriously by the Council.

I am an avid hunter and fisherman that grew up in MS, and lives in Memphis, TN but spends time every spring and summer in the FL/AL panhandle - specifically going fishing in Orange Beach AL. I look forward to these trips every year and hope to be able to share these with my children and grandchildren in the future. Thus I feel this is an important issue and would like to have a voice for my recreational interests.

Regards,

--

McNeill Wells
[901-233-8809](tel:901-233-8809) mobile

To: Pamella Dana <fish@surelurecharters.com>, Juan Sanchez <john@blaylockoil.com>, Roy Williams <royowilliams@comcast.net>, "captaindavidwalker@gmail.com" <captaindavidwalker@gmail.com>, John Greene <fishorangebeach@gmail.com>, "Leann Bosarge (Leann@Bosargeboats.com)" <Leann@Bosargeboats.com>, Dale Diaz <dale.diaz@dmr.ms.gov>, Edward Swindell <edswindell@aol.com>, Campo Matens <cematens@yahoo.com>, Douglass Boyd <douglassboyd@yahoo.com>, Greg Stunz <greg.stunz@tamucc.edu>, Martha Bademan <martha.bademan@MyFWC.com>, Kevin Anson <kevin.anson@dcnr.alabama.gov>, "Kelly Lucas Ph. D. (kelly.lucas@dmr.ms.gov)" <kelly.lucas@dmr.ms.gov>, Myron Fischer <mfischer@wlf.la.gov>, "robin.reichers@tpwd.state.tx.us" <robin.reichers@tpwd.state.tx.us>, Roy Crabtree <roy.crabtree@noaa.gov>, "council@gulfcouncil.org" <council@gulfcouncil.org>, Emily Muehlstein <emily.muehlstein@gulfcouncil.org>, Doug Gregory <doug.gregory@gulfcouncil.org>

Subject: Request to Convene the Private Recreational Advisory Panel

I demand that the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to Convene the Private Recreational Advisory Panel to find management solutions for our sector.

Although, in some way, I support the move of snapper management to the Gulf states, it is absolutely ludicrous that we do not convene the private recreational advisory panel. Why would we not have two dogs in the fight attempting to find solutions that will break some of Council gridlock? Betting all of our future access on a Congressional strategy that has failed four times is not strong leadership and threatens recreational access. It is the right thing to do to have recreational anglers at the table explaining how our shared resource should be managed. We need to have our voices as recreational anglers heard, and if anyone blocks this idea it simply shows that those members do not care what recreational interests have to say. An advisory panel is the only way to proceed if we want to work together for our sector and be taken seriously by the Council.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Cagley
Dallas, TX



Kevin Anson, Chairman

January 24, 2016

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Ave, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Dear Chairman Anson,

On behalf of the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance (Shareholders' Alliance), please accept the following comments on the following issues to be discussed at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) meeting in Orange Beach, Alabama this week.

Amendment 36 (Red Snapper IFQ Modifications)

- **We believe that many of the potential actions in this Amendment 36 scoping document will impose undue economic and social harm on commercial reef fish fishermen and therefore we must oppose most of these items.** Restrictions on program eligibility, caps on allocation and share holdings, restrictions on share and allocation transfer, forced divestment and mandated redistribution of future allocation gains run counter to the goals of the individual fishing quota (IFQ) program and the results of the Five Year Review. These complicated and controversial proposals often result in actions that do more harm than good, frequently hurting more individuals than expected, especially a full decade into a successful and relatively stable management program. We urge the Gulf Council to consider whether these “solutions” really solve the intended “problem” at hand (and whether such a problem actually exists), and to articulate the unintended/intended consequences of these disruptive proposals.
- **If Amendment 36 moves forward, we could support inclusion of actions to improve enforcement of IFQ species (Action 7) and to close and redistribute accounts that have never been activated (Action 5), and strongly suggest additional Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP) input on these actions.** We would recommend that in order to truly address regulatory discards, any redistributed allocation be put to use by industry-funded Quota Banks that promote conservation and accountability and are built around a specific goal of reducing red snapper regulatory discards in the Gulf of Mexico. These two proposed measures align with the goals of the IFQ program and the Five Year Review, as well as improve enforceability of management actions, promote conservation and accountability, should be simple to implement, and foster collaborative problem-solving within the industry.

Amendment 33 (Reef Fish LAPP).

- **We support the Gulf Council directing staff to proceed with the Amendment 33 document.** At this point, it's unclear whether or not an IFQ program would solve some of the problems seen with various reef fish species or that it would improve the performance of certain components of the fishery. But we do believe that the Reef Fish AP deserves the chance to review an updated document to decide whether or not to recommend moving forward and to start discussing IFQ issues like an updated list of appropriate species, allocation baselines, reporting requirements, access, leasing, monitoring, and enforcement.

Stewardship Through Leadership

www.shareholdersalliance.org

Amendment 39 (Regional Management).

- **We continue to support Action 2 Alternative 2 - regional management for private anglers.** This alternative is endorsed by a vast majority of the charter/for-hire sector, and is also supported by the Reef Fish AP. The charter/for-hire fleet wants to remain under federal management and the protections it affords their businesses; they should not have this program imposed on them against their will.
- **We also support any move to eliminate the Sector Separation sunset provision, either through Amendment 39 or a separate stand-alone measure.** We believe this successful, lawful program should continue to demonstrate gains to the fishery.

Red Snapper ACT Buffer.

- **We support the continuation of the 20% buffer accountability measure (AM) as required by law.** The recreational sector has substantial sources of uncertainty, including but not limited to the thirteen factors addressed in the Gulf Council document Tab B No. 4(b). That, coupled with the fact that there has only been one year of data on the buffer effectiveness and that the second year of data predicts a recreational ACT overage, demonstrates the need to maintain this necessary provision.

Reef Fish Amendments 41 and 42.

- **We support the Gulf Council continuing to move forward with Amendment 41 and 42 to develop charter/for-hire and headboat red snapper and reef fish management plans.** Doing so will afford these groups the opportunity to develop accountable management plans that work for their businesses and promote sustainable harvesting.

Shrimp Permit Moratorium (Amendment 17A).

- **We support the continuation of the Gulf's shrimp permit moratorium for 10 years (Preferred Alternative 2b).** Expansion of the shrimp fleet at this time could have negative consequences in the reef fish fishery, especially with bycatch, that could jeopardize rebuilding and protection of reef fish species.

Ad Hoc Private Angler Advisory Panel AP.

- **We support the immediate development, implementation, and population of this AP.** The chance for private anglers to come together in an organized, public and transparent setting to discuss solutions for their fishery is long overdue. We've been told that there have been a series of meetings outside the Gulf Council process to discuss private angler options; however, not knowing when these meetings were happening, where they were happening, who organized them, how they came together, who was in the room, why those individuals were chosen, who chose them, what the charge was, what the goals and objectives of this group are, and what the results of these meetings are, it's not really possible to tell whether progress is being made or not. We look forward to the AP vetting these and any other legitimate ideas through a public, transparent, and accountable Gulf Council AP process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Eric Brazer, Deputy Director
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance

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January 25, 2016

Mr. Kevin Anson, Chair
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Ave.
Tampa, FL 33607

Dear Mr. Anson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Gulf of Mexico fisheries. Here are our comments and recommendations on recreational reef fish issues before the Council this week:

1. Simplify red snapper regional management by devoting it to the private angling component – select Alternative 2 in Action 2 as preferred.

Regional management for red snapper has been endorsed primarily by private anglers and the Gulf states. Many recreational for-hire operators across the Gulf of Mexico have voiced a preference for a Gulf-wide federal management plan, and we agree that the for-hire component should be removed from any consideration of a regional management plan. Amendment 39 provides an opportunity for states to design management measures that work best for the private anglers in each region, and we suggest that the Council consider the potential benefits of management tools like tags and angler management organizations for private anglers. These approaches could provide year-round fishing opportunities, better data on fishery performance that could reduce uncertainty buffers, and reduced risk of overages that undermine the rebuilding of red snapper.

2. Continue progress on allocation-based management plans in Amendment 41 and 42.

Amendment 42:

The Gulf Headboat Collaborative pilot program demonstrated that an allocation-based management plan for headboats can be a significant improvement over status quo. Allocated the same proportion of red snapper and gag their customers would normally catch in derby seasons, headboats participating in the pilot program:^{1,2}

¹ Abbott, J.K. (2015). The Gulf Headboat Collaborative: Preliminary Findings from Year 1. Presentation to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Biloxi, MS. March 31, 2015.

² NMFS Southeast Regional Office (2015). "Headboat Collaborative Pilot Program 2014 Annual Report." March 2015.

- Spread out their allocations of red snapper and gag over the year to allow year-round fishing and improved economic stability for headboat operators;
- Provided more than twice as many anglers (+100%) with opportunities to fish for red snapper and gag;
- Significantly reduced discards of red snapper and gag (by 43% and 59%, respectively);
- Successfully stayed under catch limits and facilitated superior monitoring and enforcement by using daily electronic logbooks, vessel monitoring systems, and quota transferability within the pilot program.

The headboat pilot program was a success for headboat businesses, their angler customers, and conservation. While the two year pilot expired on December 31, 2015, the Council now has an opportunity to build on this success and extend a similar management approach to all 68 Gulf of Mexico headboats participating in the Southeast Region Headboat Survey (i.e., Beaufort Survey).

We recommend that the Council **move forward Amendment 42** as quickly as possible with these features:

- Species to include: Amendment 42 should develop a multispecies allocation-based management approach, consistent with recommendations from the Council's Reef Fish Headboat Advisory Panel. At a minimum this should include the five major reef fish species for which there are recreational allocations (red snapper, red grouper, gag, greater amberjack, and gray triggerfish). These species are important to headboat businesses and their angler customers, and many are facing the same management challenges as recreational red snapper.
- Initial allocations: Headboats have reported their landings through trip-level logbooks for many years, so it will be straightforward to establish initial allocations based on their own landings histories.
- Structure: Quota shares and allocation should be distributed to individual headboat operators with for-hire reef fish permits. A cooperative structure made sense for 19 headboats in a pilot program, but going forward on larger scale individual allocations and accountability will make management and enforcement more simple, effective, and efficient.
- Transferability: Shares and allocation should be freely transferable and divisible among permitted headboats. Quota transfers allowed pilot program headboats the flexibility to reduce discards and extend fishing seasons over the year. Amendment 42 should extend these benefits to all Gulf of Mexico headboats.

Amendment 41:

The benefits demonstrated by the headboat pilot program should also be extended to the charter component of the recreational reef fish fishery. Amendment 41 lays out four goals: increased flexibility, reduced management uncertainty, improved economic conditions, and increased fishing opportunities for charter customers. These goals are critical to reversing the failure of status quo management and are the right guideposts for developing a successful management plan for the charter for-hire component.

We recommend that the Council **move forward Amendment 41** with these considerations:

- Management approach: The two fishing quota programs listed in Action 1, Alternative 2 (Individual Fishing Quota and Permit Fishing Quota) are likely to provide the most benefits to participants and the most efficient management for regulators and law enforcement. A cooperative structure is impractical given the large number of charter operators across the Gulf, and stand-alone tag management would forfeit the predictability and efficiency of individual allocations.
- Initial allocations: Given the lack of vessel-level landings history, Amendment 41 lays out several equitable means of distribution. We do not recommend one alternative over any other, but the Council should consider all of the implications of weighting allocations by estimated regional landings from prior years. Weighting allocations by estimated regional landings may result in uneven initial allocations across the Gulf, but not doing so may mean that initial allocations are less representative of recent fishing trends.
- Transferability: For any initial allocation scenario selected, quota transferability will be advantageous to rebalance fishing opportunities, extend fishing seasons, and reduce discards. The Gulf Headboat Collaborative pilot program demonstrated clear benefits of quota transferability. We recommend that Amendment 41 provide these benefits to the charter component.

We recommend that the Council reconvene the reef fish headboat and red snapper charter for-hire advisory panels before the April 2016 Council meeting to provide more detailed guidance on these management options.

3. Move forward on populating and convening the Private Angler Advisory Panel.

A federal court upheld the creation of the private angling and for-hire subsectors in the red snapper fishery. The Council should focus on improving management to benefit anglers in both. As was done in the commercial sector and is now on-going in recreational for-hire efforts, the gathering of stakeholder input and development of options should be done in an inclusive and transparent process. Closed door meetings by self-selected stakeholders cannot replace the advisory panel process. We strongly encourage the Council to move forward with a robust process to engage a wide cross-section of anglers across the Gulf in an open, inclusive and constructive advisory panel.

Thank you for considering our comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Jones

Director, Gulf of Mexico Oceans Program

January 24, 2016

Kevin Anson, Chair
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

RE: Ocean Conservancy's Comments on Actions Before the January, 2016 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting in Orange Beach, Alabama

Dear Mr. Anson,

Ocean Conservancy¹ is writing to provide comments on a number of issues that will be discussed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council ('GMFMC', 'the Council') at its upcoming January meeting in Orange Beach, Alabama. The specific items and our recommendations are summarized below, and are expounded upon in greater detail in the following sections:

- **Amendment 39** – The Council should **select Action 2, Alternative 2 as preferred and vote to finalize Amendment 39**. Applying regional management solely to the private recreational component of the fishery will allow state managers to develop regulations that are tailored to the private recreational component and will create accountability, facilitate rebuilding, and increase access for private recreational fishermen.
- **Red Snapper Recreational Annual Catch Target ('ACT') Adjustment** – The Council should heed the advice of the Scientific and Statistical Committee ('SSC') and **make no changes to the existing 20% buffer** between the recreational red snapper Annual Catch Limit ('ACL') and ACT. This buffer is crucially important to the continued rebuilding success of red snapper and should not be changed until suitable accountability measures are implemented for the recreational fishery.
- **Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel** – The Council should **form this Advisory Panel ('AP') without delay**. This AP will provide the Council necessary advice and direction for better achieving management and fishermen objectives.
- **Amendment 33** – The Council should **resume work on creating Limited Access Privilege Programs ('LAPPs')** for reef fish not currently under such a program, including greater amberjack and gray triggerfish, as this would promote greater accountability in the commercial fishery and would ensure continued rebuilding progress for these stocks.

Please note that we have also submitted a separate letter detailing our support for and recommended changes to the Modifications to Charter Vessel and Headboat Reporting Requirements Amendment.

¹ Ocean Conservancy is a non-profit organization that educates and empowers citizens to take action on behalf of the ocean. From the Arctic to the Gulf of Mexico to the halls of Congress, Ocean Conservancy brings people together to find solutions for our water planet. Informed by science, our work guides policy and engages people in protecting the ocean and its wildlife for future generations.

Amendment 39 – Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper: Council should select Action 2 Alternative 2 as preferred and vote to finalize Amendment 39.

Ocean Conservancy recommends that the Council selects Action 2 Alternative 2 as preferred, making regional management apply exclusively to the private recreational fishing component while also eliminating the three-year sunset provision instituted under Amendment 40 (Sector Separation).

Regional management provides a real and meaningful chance for private recreational fishermen from throughout the five Gulf states to fish under regulatory conditions that cater directly to their local needs. Fishermen from each state fish at different times of year, with different techniques and different local knowledge, out of ports that range in character and culture from Naples to Venice to Brownsville. Allowing the states to develop individual conservation equivalent plans that are customized to the unique fishing traits of private fishermen in their waters could ultimately result in more days on the water for anglers, greater accountability from the private recreational component, and decreased likelihood that the recreational component will exceed its share of the overall red snapper quota season after season. Fewer quota overruns and greater stability in the fishery means rebuilding stays on track and catch limits can increase as the stock rebounds.

Approving Amendment 39 with any alternative other than Action 2 Alternative 2 as preferred jeopardizes the important management progress that has been made for recreational red snapper fishing. Any other alternative in Action 2 would in essence remove the management framework that is showing signs of management success, including more fishing opportunities and greater accountability in the Charter-for-Hire fishery.

In addition, Sector Separation provides the potential for additional improvements in conservation and economic performance of the Charter-for-Hire fishery via development of new management approaches. The Council has recognized this by developing Amendments 41 and 42 with the goal of implementing specific management measures for the Charter-for-Hire and Headboat segments of the recreational red snapper fishery. These amendments are currently underway, and removing Sector Separation would in essence render the potential conservation gains that could be realized through unique Charter-for-Hire and Headboat management provisions null and void.

Furthermore, selecting Action 2 Alternative 2 removes the three-year sunset provision set out in Amendment 40, which will allow for the long term benefits of Sector Separation to be realized by both components of the recreational fishery. As each component works to implement component specific management measures that are narrowly tailored to their unique needs, fishermen, whether they are clients on charter vessels or members of the boat-owning public, should see greater access in increased seasons as quota overruns are reduced and rebuilding progress continues.

Red Snapper Recreational ACT Adjustment: Council should not make any changes to the current buffer for recreational red snapper at this point.

Ocean Conservancy recommends that the Council heeds the advice of the SSC by maintaining the current buffer in place for the recreational red snapper fishery. Further analysis and additional data is needed to determine what sort of adjustment could be made to fine tune the buffer, however it is clear that to do so now, especially in light of the SSC's clear recommendations, would be premature.

The ruling in *Guindon v. Pritzker* mandated that accountability measures be developed and applied to the recreational red snapper fishery in order to comply with the MSA.² Council responded to this ruling in 2014 by implementing a 20% buffer by way of emergency rule. For 2015 and onward, Council

² *Guindon v. Pritzker*, 31 F. Supp. 3d 169 (D.D.C. 2014).

implemented a 20% buffer and a post-season payback measure for longer term compliance with the *Guindon* ruling and with the MSA.³

As a result of the 2014 emergency rule, that season was the first since 2011 that recreational catches stayed below the ACL.⁴ While the 2015 season data is not yet complete, there are indications that the overall recreational ACL will not be exceeded, however it does seem possible that the private recreational component of the fishery has already exceeded the ACT.⁵ These results are promising, however based on the history of quota overages there is still lingering uncertainty that overages could persist notwithstanding these early results.

In light of this residual uncertainty as highlighted by the SSC, the Council should wait for more data from upcoming seasons before adjusting the recreational buffer. This approach will also allow time for critical analysis to be conducted that could determine which component of the recreational fishery under Sector Separation might be responsible for any fishing down of the buffer that could be occurring, which would allow for reliable calibration of the buffer for future seasons.

The is echoed by the SSC, which reported at its January, 2016 meeting that “with only one year of Sector Separation, there is little data on which to base any analysis” and that the buffer should be “re-evaluated in 3 or 4 years when there will be more data under sector separation.”⁶ This is prudent advice from the SSC, and we recommend that the Council follows it on this issue.

Ad-Hoc Private Recreational AP: Council should populate and charge this AP without haste.

Ocean Conservancy urges the Council to officially form this AP so that it may begin work as soon as possible to develop solutions that will work to increase access and promote achievement of management goals in the private recreational fishery. This AP will give citizen-fishermen from the private boat owning public the opportunity to recommend directly to the Council management options and alternatives that can make a difference for their fishery, with the ultimate objective of increasing the length of the existing 10-day season while ensuring that rebuilding of important recreational stocks continues.

Amendment 33 – Reef Fish Limited Access Privilege Program: The Council should resume work and develop LAPPs for Greater Amberjack, Gray Triggerfish, and other reef fish stocks not currently under a LAPP

Ocean Conservancy recommends that the Council reinitiates consideration of LAPPs for stocks not currently under a LAPP under the reef fish Fishery Management Plan (‘FMP’). The conservation benefits of LAPPs in conjunction with the red snapper rebuilding plan have been well documented in the commercial snapper-grouper fishery, where for example quota overruns for commercial red snapper have not occurred and bycatch was reduced since the Individual Fishing Quota (‘IFQ’) program for that stock was implemented in 2007.⁷ In contrast, greater amberjack and gray triggerfish

³ Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Recreational Accountability Measures for Red Snapper*, <http://gulfcouncil.org/docs/amendments/Final%20Recreational%20AMs%20for%20Red%20Snapper%2010-6-2014.pdf> (accessed January 19, 2016).

⁴ NOAA Fisheries, *Gulf of Mexico Recreational Landings and Annual Catch Limits 2014*, http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/recreational_historical/gulf_recreational_historical/2014/index.html (accessed January 19, 2016).

⁵ NOAA Fisheries, *Gulf of Mexico Recreational Landings and Annual Catch Limits 2015-2016*, http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/recreational_gulf/index.html (accessed January 19, 2016).

⁶ Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Briefing Materials for January 2016 – Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC Meeting Summary*, at 14 [http://gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/BriefingMaterials/BB-01-2016/B%20-%20204\(a\)%20Standing%20%20Reef%20Fish%20SSC%20Meeting%20Summary%2001-2016.pdf](http://gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/BriefingMaterials/BB-01-2016/B%20-%20204(a)%20Standing%20%20Reef%20Fish%20SSC%20Meeting%20Summary%2001-2016.pdf) (accessed January 19, 2016).

⁷ Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Amendment 40 at 36*, http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/commercial_gulf/index.html (accessed January 19, 2016).

have been managed utilizing traditional management measures including trip limits and seasonal closures. Both fisheries have often exceeded their ACLs – the commercial greater amberjack fishery exceeded its quota seven of the eight years between 2008 and 2015, while the commercial gray triggerfish fishery has exceeded its quota in just two of eight seasons between 2008 and 2015.⁸

Furthermore, both species are currently failing to meet rebuilding objectives and deadlines. Greater amberjack is overfished and undergoing overfishing, and recently concluded a ten-year rebuilding plan without being rebuilt.^{9,10} Although the Council has implemented regulations that will ostensibly rebuild the stock by 2019,¹¹ a new Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act ('MSA') mandated rebuilding plan has not been formalized, and based on historical rebuilding failures there is considerable uncertainty as to whether or not the stock will indeed rebuild. Similarly, gray triggerfish, which is under a rebuilding plan ending in 2017, is also not making adequate rebuilding progress and Council has been charged with developing a new rebuilding plan by November 2, 2017.¹²

The persistent quota overruns for greater amberjack and gray triggerfish could be curbed by developing a well-designed LAPP and implementing effective rebuilding measures for these stocks. A LAPP for these stocks will have the added benefit of potentially eliminating or reducing annual quota closures, preventing derby fishing, reducing market gluts, minimizing price volatility, and curtailing effort shifting.

To ensure Amendment 33 applies equitably to all commercial fishermen that target these species, Ocean Conservancy recommends as an initial action the Council sends the amendment to the Reef Fish Advisory Panel. By sending the amendment directly to the stakeholders that will be impacted, the Council will obtain important insight and advice that will make sure these LAPPs are developed fairly and result in the greatest benefit to all.

We appreciate the opportunity to give comment, and please feel free to contact the undersigned with any comments or questions.

Best regards,

s/ Jon Paul (J.P.) S. Brooker, Esq.

Policy Analyst, Fishery Conservation Program
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⁸ NOAA Fisheries, *Gulf of Mexico Commercial ACL Monitoring*, http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/commercial_gulf/index.html (accessed January 19, 2016).

⁹ NOAA Fisheries, *Status of the Stocks as of September 30, 2015*, http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/fisheries_eco/status_of_fisheries/archive/2015/third/final_fssi_quarterly_map_q3_2015.pdf (accessed January 19, 2016).

¹⁰ Southeast Data Assessment and Review, *SEDAR 33*, http://sedarweb.org/docs/sar/SEDAR%2033%20SAR-%20GAJ%20Stock%20Assessment%20Report%20FINAL_sizereduced_5.15.2014.pdf (accessed January 19, 2016).

¹¹ Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Modifications to Greater Amberjack Allowable Harvest*, at 11, <http://gulfcouncil.org/docs/amendments/Greater%20AJ%20FINAL%20VERSION%207-10-15.pdf> (accessed January 19, 2016).

¹² Southeast Data Assessment and Review, *SEDAR 43*, http://sedarweb.org/docs/sar/S43_SAR_FINAL.pdf (accessed January 19, 2016).

January 25, 2016

Dear Chairman Anson and Members of the Gulf Council:

Following the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) release of the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy in 2015, representatives of the angling community in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) came together to discuss opportunities for better management of the recreational sector, while ensuring the broadest possible input from the largest sector of reef fish participants in the Gulf. After two in-person meetings, the professionally facilitated Gulf Angler Focus Group (GAFG) has officially been formed.

Gulf Angler Focus Group

The GAFG is a professionally facilitated group composed of unaffiliated private anglers, national angler organizations, for-hire operators, bait and tackle shop owners, fishing tackle manufacturers, tackle distributors, and marina owners – working in consultation with all five state fisheries managers from the Gulf region. The GAFG's purpose is to develop a package of consensus recommendations by the recreational sector for reasonable access and the sustainable harvest of Gulf reef fish fisheries, with an emphasis on the red snapper fishery, for consideration in management decisions by the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council (Council) and NMFS. In addition to providing a format to include the broadest representation of the recreational sector, the GAFG provides a neutral and productive setting for those representatives to fully explore management options for the sector.

Over the course of the next twelve to eighteen months, the GAFG will focus on several key areas to enhance and improve recreational fisheries management. These areas include recreational harvest data collection, biological data collection, stock assessments, recreational management options, regional management, season lengths, allocations and sector separation.

In addition, the GAFG will provide comments on proposed actions at each Council meeting, beginning with the meeting slated for January 25-28 in Orange Beach, AL. At this meeting the Council will consider taking action on two issues identified as priorities at the most recent GAFG meeting – continuing discussions of an Ad Hoc Private Recreational AP and final action on Reef Fish Management Plan Amendment 39.

Ad Hoc Private Recreational AP

The GAFG recommends that the Council defer any action on the further development of an Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel in light of the GAFG's organized, neutrally facilitated, and broad-based effort to develop consensus recommendations for the recreational fishery on key management issues in a timely manner consistent with the NMFS National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy Guiding Principles and the findings of the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management. The inherent challenge of incorporating the diverse perspectives of the recreational sector from Brownsville, TX to Key West, FL and the reservations of the majority of private recreational anglers in the Council process would preclude any Council ad hoc committee from truly reaching consensus management option for Gulf anglers. This position was unanimously supported by the GAFG.

Amendment 39

Anglers continue to support the concept of regional management and the need for flexibility in state management of the recreational component of the red snapper fishery. However, Amendment 39 as currently amended does not accomplish its original intent of allowing the states the flexibility to truly manage the recreational component in the red snapper fishery. The GAFG recommends that the Council revisit and re-evaluate the original vision of Amendment 39 and seek agreement on how to ensure the original purposes of the amendment are met. This position was unanimously supported by the GAFG.

In closing, the current management of red snapper has failed in providing acceptable access for the recreational sector. We recognize that angler participation in the Council process has been minimal, due primarily to intractable meeting opportunities and to a lack of trust in the Council process in general. However, the recreational community has now come together voluntarily and at their own expense to provide the Council with consensus management recommendations from a full spectrum of anglers. We trust that in good faith, the Council will allow this process to develop fully and to ultimately provide valuable input that would not be available through a formal Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel at this time.

Sincerely,

Ken Anderson
Owner/Operator
M/V Capt. Anderson

Pam Anderson
Operations Manager
Capt. Anderson's Marina

Hughes Andry
Sportco Marketing
Fishing Tackle Industry

Jim Donofrio
Executive Director
Recreational Fishing Alliance

Chris Horton
Fisheries Program Director
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Mike Nugent
Fishery Representative
Port Aransas Boatman Association

Kellie Ralston
Florida Fishery Policy Director
American Sportfishing Association

Ted Venker
Conservation Director
Coastal Conservation Association

Bob Zales II
President - National Association of Charterboat Operators
Northwest Florida Director – Florida Guides Association

Gary Zurn
Owner/Partner
Big Rock Sports



October 4, 2015

Kevin Anson, Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Ave, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Dear Chairman Anson,

On behalf of the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance (Shareholders' Alliance), please accept the following comments on the following issues to be discussed at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) meeting in Galveston, Texas this week.

Amendment 39 (Regional Management)

- **We continue to strongly support Action 2 Alternative 2 - regional management for private anglers.** This alternative is endorsed by a vast majority of the charter/for-hire sector, and is also supported by the Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP). The charter/for-hire fleet wants to remain under federal management and the protections it affords their businesses.

Gray Triggerfish

- **We support the Reef Fish AP's overwhelming recommendation to untable Amendment 33 and consider gray triggerfish in the document.** Commercial management of gray triggerfish isn't working – biomass and spawning potential are at or near all-time-lows while commercial discarding continues to rise and commercial quota overages have occurred in two of the last three years. Untabling Amendment 33 will give the industry and the Gulf Council the chance to discuss whether an individual fishing quota (IFQ) could effectively solve some of these problems and help rebuild this fishery.

Joint Amendment to Require Electronic Reporting for Charter Vessels and Headboats

- **We support the AP's overwhelming recommendation to proceed with the charter/headboat electronic reporting document separately from the South Atlantic.** Splitting this document will allow the Gulf Council to move forward more quickly and effectively to implement this positive program and acknowledges the preference the Gulf fleet has for trip-level reporting (as opposed to the South Atlantic's preference for weekly reporting).

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Gag

- **We support the AP's recommendation to increase the recreational gag size limit to 24 inches** in order to help promote conservation of this species.
- **We also support the AP's unanimous recommendation to adjust of the recreational season to include a winter season (January 1-31)** in order to maximize economic opportunities for the charter boats reliant on gag grouper, while continuing to manage this species under federal ACL/ACT requirements.
- **Furthermore, we support the AP's unanimous recommendation to increase the commercial gag size limit to 24 inches if the recreational gag size limit is increased to 24 inches.** This will create parity between the sectors and will help promote conservation of this species.

Hogfish

- **We support the AP's recommendations that define the hogfish management unit, identify maximum sustainable yield proxy and (a conservative) minimum stock size threshold and initiate a plan amendment for hogfish management.** We also support the AP's recommendations to create a recreational/commercial split of the hogfish allocation and to increase the minimum size limit from 12 inches to 14 inches. These measures are necessary to improve hogfish management and conservation.

Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC)

- **We support the AP's unanimous recommendations to develop a working group where scientists and fishermen collaborate to identify new and existing coral areas in need of protection.** A working partnership like this will help ensure that HAPCs maximize the most critical habitat protections while engaging fishermen to operate their gear in an accountable manner that causes the least amount of habitat damage. We believe that responsible, low-impact commercial fishing can continue to coexist with habitat protection – the two ideas are not mutually exclusive.

Reef Fish Amendment 41 and 42

- **We support moving forward with Amendment 41 and 42 to develop charter/for-hire and headboat red snapper and reef fish management plans.** Doing so will afford these groups the opportunity to develop accountable management plans that work for their businesses and promote sustainable harvesting.

Ad Hoc Private Angler Advisory Panel AP

- **We support the immediate development and implementation of this AP, including a charge, membership, roles and responsibilities, and a timeline for meetings.** The chance for private anglers to come together to discuss fishery solutions is long overdue. Please stop stalling.

Recalibration

- **We support the AP's overwhelming recommendations to improve the use of recalibration in fishery management.**
- First, we support the AP's request to have the Science Center run additional red snapper recalibration projections using a range of assumptions that we believe are reasonable, including

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1) that recreational selectivity will change over time (rather than remain constant) and 2) that recreational discard mortality is higher than 10%. We believe these assumptions are just as plausible as the ones used by the Science Center and should be evaluated.

- Second, we support the AP's request that all future Gulf Council decisions that involve recalibration use a more comprehensive analysis than the one recently used in red snapper, which was determined to be a "*preliminary, interim approach*" that "*may not be defensible from a scientific point of view.*" Further, the recalibration approach chosen was the simplest of three approaches that were evaluated by the working group, which concluded "*We recommend that investigation continue on the remaining two methods. It is possible that one of them will be determined to be better at some future date.*" All we are asking is that in the future, the full suite of approaches be evaluated and reviewed by the Science and Statistical Committee before being used for management purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Brazer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "E" and "B".

Eric Brazer, Deputy Director
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance

October 6, 2015

Dear Chairman Anson:

The current frustration within the recreational fishing community with red snapper management in the Gulf of Mexico has been more than a decade in the making. While the commercial sector has benefited immensely through the privatization of this public resource, federal management has been increasingly ineffective for the recreational sector, resulting in not only lost opportunities with family and friends for the private recreational angler, but also economic hardship in the charter/for-hire, tackle retailer and tourism industries. Recreational anglers, more than anyone, want to find a path towards a sensible solution for not only red snapper, but also other recreationally important species. However, we do not believe the proposed recreational advisory panel (AP) before the Council can, or will, serve as the vehicle that takes us there.

There are several inherent challenges and problems with developing an effective recreational AP within the Gulf Council. First and foremost is identifying a true representation of who the “recreational community” encompasses from the tens of thousands of anglers along the expansive and diverse Gulf Coast. While the relatively small community of commercial fishermen and the slightly larger number of charter/for-hire captains may lend themselves to a council advisory panel structure, the broad diversity and the sheer number of recreational anglers do not. Simply by its structure alone, an advisory panel would miss a significant portion of the private recreational angler perspectives necessary to be successful. Another is the issue of trust. Even if a representative subsample of the private recreational angling community could be identified, many likely would not participate due to the lack of trust they have for the council process and management by the National Marine Fisheries Service in general.

In an effort to begin assembling a diverse cross-section of the recreational angling community in the Gulf, a meeting was held on September 8th and 9th in Biloxi, Mississippi, where representative from state marine resource agencies, marina owners, charter captains, tackle distributors and private recreational anglers from Texas to Florida gathered to learn more about the current management process and to begin developing a path forward. Some of the overarching themes and action items resulting from the inaugural meeting included:

- Look to the NOAA rec fishing policy as a guidance document for opportunities to improve recreational fisheries management in the Gulf.
- The new state fishery-dependent data collection process (LA Creel, FWC’s reef fish permit, etc.) recently implemented by many of the states shows promising results for more accurately measuring angler harvest. Work with the states and the private recreational community on fostering more angler participation and accurate accounting of recreational harvest and ensure the data is incorporated in stock assessments.
- Work with the states and universities on stock assessment methodologies that include more fishery-independent data.
- Concluded that there was no support for expanding limited access programs to the recreational sector (fish tags). Every other fishery is successfully managed without the use of tags.

While this initial meeting provided a basis from which to start, additional meetings, both in-person and via conference call, are planned for the coming months. This informal coalition provides the flexibility to include a broad array of perspectives within the recreational fishing community from across the Gulf of Mexico region, and provides a setting where participants can comfortably exchange perspectives and ideas; which would not be possible under a rigid AP within the Gulf Council at this time. With each meeting, the sphere of Gulf recreational angling perspectives will grow as additional participants join the discussion, and as we work to incorporate specific action items towards a better, more accountable system of fisheries management for recreational anglers.

Sincerely,

Pam Anderson
Capt. Anderson's Marina

Hughes Andry
Sporting goods sales agency

Tammy Graham
Private recreational angler

Chris Horton
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Mike Leonard
American Sportfishing Association

Mike Nugent
Charter boat operator

Dr. Bob Shipp
Professor Emeritus of Marine Science, Univ. of South Alabama

Ted Venker
Coastal Conservation Association

Bob Zales II
National Association of Charterboat Operators

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Avenue Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

Dear Chairman Kevin Anson and Dr. Roy Crabtree:

We, the undersigned, urge the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to create and convene a recreational AP to discuss management improvements to the red snapper and reef fish fishery. With recent private recreational red snapper seasons growing shorter, providing less access to our nation's fisheries, we urge the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to convene the Private Recreational Advisory Panel suggested by Council members and supported by the Council staff and Regional Administrator Dr. Roy Crabtree to find solutions to improve management and maximize access to the fishery. As private recreational anglers, we know the only way to make sure our voices are heard is to engage in the council process. The only way that we will find management solutions that consider the way we fish and that reflect the needs of the Gulf's recreational anglers, while ensuring it is the collective recreational voice being represented, is to convene the Private Recreational Advisory Panel.

Sincerely,

Name:

Phone or Email:

16

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1st page

Sincerely,

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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Avenue Suite 1100
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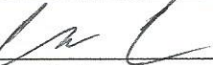


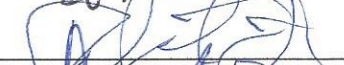



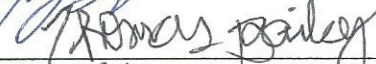

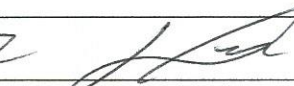


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Sincerely,

Name:

Phone or Email:

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Shawn Troy		813 6957352
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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Avenue Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

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Sincerely,

Name:

Phone or Email:

Carly Ojeda	727-877-7102
MIKE PERRY	911
Taylor Green	727-656-1260
Jon Beckham	941-737-3253
Shawn Raulerson	863-860-8502
Jason Woodman	941-223-5850
Jeff Mc...	813-714-2959
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email on

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2203 North Lois Avenue Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

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Sincerely,


Name:


Phone or Email:

J. Hiles
John Badalaker, John Hiles *Hiles @ hotmail.com*
Haley Bean, Haley T.
Amani Wather, Amani Wather

 Reply all |   Delete Junk |  ... 

Recreational fishing

CM Chad Mynatt <mynatttile@gmail.com>
To: Gulf Council; 

 Reply all | 

Wed 9/30/2015 11:42 PM

Inbox (Gulf Council)

Please convene the recreational advisory to let my voice be heard by the gulf council. This is crazy. Ive lived here all my life and fished offshore all my life. Far offshore. And there has never been as many red snapper as there is right now. Their in places where they never were before. Theyve actually invaded old grouper habitat. Making it almost impossible to fish for anything else. The vast majority of people fishing are good people that would just like to take a couple fish home to eat with their families. This is totally ridiculous what youve done. Now i know this will fall on deaf ears. But its worth a try for my kids to have a shot at a fishing future. Thanks.