

Subject: FW: Preferred Amberjack season and size
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 5:35 PM
From: Trish Kennedy <trish.kennedy@gulfcouncil.org>
To: Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Preferred Amberjack season and size

-----Original Message-----

From: Capt. Tim [mailto:CaptTim@doubletimecharters.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 5:34 PM
To: Trish Kennedy
Subject: Preferred Amberjack season and size

Dear Gulf Council,

Please vote for the preferred alternative regarding the Amberjack season of a June and July closure, and leaving the minimum size at 30 inches. This is very important to the livelihood of so many of us fisherman and also so the public may continue to have access to these public resources. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Capt.
Tim Adams

Double
Time Charters, Destin, Florida

Subject: FW: Amberjack season
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 10:25 AM
From: Trish Kennedy <trish.kennedy@gulfcouncil.org>
To: Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Amberjack season

From: Capt Scott Robson [mailto:sportfish1@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 10:17 AM
To: Trish Kennedy
Subject: Amberjack season

Gulf Council Members

The DCBA again stress's for the Council to vote, for the preferred alternative of 30 inches, one per person and a June and July closure intact.

This Amberjack plan worked , we were able to maintain a season for industry stake holders, fishing communities, and the citizens of the U.S. We did not go over our allocation and accountability measures are in place, and that is what you were mandated by congress to do. You were not mandated to create more by catch and seasons that will put us over our allocation, with a larger targeted size of fish.

It's hard enough to make business plans, with shorter seasons and down economy, without adding flip flopping seasons. This only adds confusion to the public and mistrust in the workings of NMFS and the Gulf Council.

Coastal communities, hotels, restaurants, TDC's and families rely on lengthy fishing seasons, and they all rely on the Gulf Council to make decisions based what best for these communities. We need our appointed leaders to start making decisions that stimulate the economy not the opposite.

Thank You

Capt Scott Robson

Co-President of the DCBA

Subject: FW: Greater Amberjack
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 8:30 AM
From: Trish Kennedy <trish.kennedy@gulfcouncil.org>
To: Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Greater Amberjack

From: Michael Graef [mailto:michaelgraef@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 7:43 AM
To: Trish Kennedy
Subject: Greater Amberjack

Gulf Council members,

I own the Charter Boat Huntress in Destin Florida. It has come to my attention that there is once again a push to change the Greater Amberjack size limit to 34”

As I stated in Mobile Al. and which this council voted to make no increase in the size limit for Greater Amberjack or to change the current June & July closure.

My position has not changed keep the current 30” recreational size limit intact for the following reasons.

1) the results of this presentation was the result of a stock update and not a benchmark amberjack stock assessment. There was much discussion during the SSC meetings on what actually is going on with amberjacks. Our own antidotal evidence in the northern gulf and off the west coast of Florida is that the stock appears to be fine with plenty of small fish and abundance of keepers at the present size limits. So until we got a benchmark assessment I feel it is prudent to maintain the present seasons and size limits to provide stability in the seasons.

2) It has been our experience (and we are the real experts on what happens in the gulf) that every time we increase the size limits it creates a shorter season due to harvesting larger fish thus catching the allocation quicker. That does not show up in this presentation. Also what is not presented is the fact that the larger fish do not survive barotrauma as

well as the smaller fish .You start throwing back 33 3/4 inch amberjacks most of which are in deep water (that's where the big ones tend to live) then we have created a by catch issue similar to the old 15 inch red snapper size limit in the commercial derby days. We acquiesced to the 2 month closure during snapper season so we would have a trophy fish to catch during the rest of the year which servers the industry well due to season and tourist differences from Key West to Brownsville Texas

3) And as mentioned before our businesses need some stability in its access to fisheries until more accurate scientific information becomes available. leaving the amberjack seasons as is will provide that access stability. There are already accountability measures in place to account for over fishing with the amberjack pay back provisions so we need to ask the council to keep preferred alternative of 30 inches, one per person and a June and July closure intact

Thank You,

Capt. Mike Graef

Charter Boat Huntress

Destin, FL.

Subject: Public comment
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 8:56 AM
From: fishdestin@yahoo.com
Reply-To: <fishdestin@yahoo.com>
To: Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Public comment

Mike Eller... Owner/operator. Charter Boat Lady Em and Charter Boat Fish N Fool... Destin, Fl.

I am opposed to a increase in the greater amberjack size limit in order to regain June and July fishing season. An increase in size limit will only help slow the rate of catch for the 1st year or two and then we will be right back to the same rate of harvest with a bigger fish. That will lead us back to a closure to slow down the harvest. The june and july closure is what works best for the majority of gulf fishermen and is doing a good job of keeping the rec fishermen inside of their quota. The june and july closure is painful, but it is working and we need to stick with it.

I am also in favor of decreasing the bag limit on grey triggerfish to 5 per person in order to keep the fishery open.

I am opposed to the headboat pilot program at this time. I believe that it is a deals with issues that need to be addressed in their own light. Such as inter sector trading of commercial ifq and accurate fish counting methods. Once again it is putting the cart before the horse. We can't count individual fish, yet we are going to move forward with a catch share program. It is a back door attempt to move the fishery towards catch shares without addressing over all concerns about accountability and accurate harvest rates.

Sincerely

Capt Mike Eller

Via the Gulf of Mexico

30.20.580 X 86.36.099

Sent from my BlackBerry® wireless device provided by SouthernLINC Wireless

Subject: opposed to sector separation
Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 9:30 PM
From: hunthb@comcast.net
To: Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: opposed to sector separation

I would like to go on record to being opposed to the sector separation and changing the size limit on greater amberjack to 34 inches. We have in the past few years been working with a 30 inch size limit. As a charter boat captain for 40 years, I do not agree that there has been enough time to justify it to a 34 inch size limit to appease the environmentalist that are pushing this change. This will reduce fishing days due to the increase size limit.. At a one fish catch limit, I feel that amberjack are being overfished.

Capt Hank Hunt

Capt Hank Hunt Charter Services, Inc

Panama City, FL 32405

Subject: FW: Public Testimony
Date: Monday, April 16, 2012 12:16 PM
From: Trish Kennedy <trish.kennedy@gulfcouncil.org>
To: Emily Muehlstein <Emily.Muehlstein@gulfcouncil.org>, Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Public Testimony

Please refresh my memory what I'm to do with these. I think send them to you?

From: Capt Johnny Greene [mailto:fishorangebeach@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2012 8:35 PM
To: Trish Kennedy
Subject: Fwd: Public Testimony

please forward to all.

Thanks

Johnny Greene

251-747-2872

www.fishorangebeach.com <<http://www.fishorangebeach.com/>>

Order your Intimidator Shirt <http://www.ebay.com/itm/260657741165?var=&ssPageName=STRK:MESELX:IT&_trksid=p3984.m1555.l2649> now

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Bill Staff <captainbill@seaspraycharterfishing.com>
Date: Sun, Apr 15, 2012 at 7:25 PM
Subject: Public Testimony
To: Roy Crabtree <roy.crabtree@noaa.gov>
Cc: Ben <benfairey@gmail.com>, Johnni G <fishorangebeach@gmail.com>, Rowell <Mike@captainmikesfishing.com>, Thierry <capthierry@aol.com>

Hey Roy

Hope all is well!

Would like to tell council last season worked well for charter boats and some recreational fishermen I talked to

In Orange Beach. When both amberjack and snapper are closed we have only tuna, really to target! This takes an overnight trip and many people can't afford this. The fall fishery would be terrible without jacks! I would support an increase in the size limit for a year round season but every time we have gone up in size limit in a fishery in a few years we are facing a closure (because the fish get bigger and we catch the quota quicker). Just like with trigger. So unless there were a law passed

guaranteeing us no closure do to larger fish I am shouting stay with what worked well last year! And we all know there will never be any guarantees to us especially anything in our favor.

As for trigger I think a 20 fish bag limit is crazy! Let's get a realistic bag limit(5 per person)and keep the season open all year!

As for red snapper as u know they are taking over everything everywhere! If the benchmark stock assessment doesn't come back with a population the best its been in 30 years u better fire the people doing it!

Thanks for opportunity to voice my opinion!

Bill Staff

Sea Spray

2519793631 <tel:2519793631>

Sent from my iPhone



Mr. Robert Gill, Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2205 North Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

April 09, 2012

RE: Final Public Hearing Draft for Amendment 35 to the Reef Fish FMP and Scoping Document for Sector Separation

Chairman Gill and Members of the Gulf Council:

On behalf of the Pew Environment Group's Gulf of Mexico Fish Conservation Campaign, we offer additional comments on the Final Public Hearing Draft for Amendment 35 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan and have some thoughts on the scoping and deliberations regarding the sector separation proposal.

In general, we support efforts to end overfishing and rebuild greater amberjack through Amendment 35 and specifically the revisions to the accountability measures (AMs) recommended by staff. However, we remain concerned that Amendment 35 does not do enough to increase the reproductive potential of the greater amberjack population, and that as a result, the rebuilding plan will not be successful. We recommend the Council increase the minimum recreational size limit to 34 inches, which would significantly increase the percent of these fish that are capable of spawning. In addition to the clear biological benefits of increasing the size limit, this would also allow the Council to remove the current June and July recreational closed season, at least initially and until the after the stock assessment scheduled for next year.

Additionally, we encourage the Council to approach the sector separation issue with specific and clear objectives in mind, which should include more effective implementation of ACLs and AMs within the recreational fishery, and creating opportunities for both the recreational and for-hire sector to be managed in a way that meets the sometimes different needs and motivations of these stakeholder groups.

Amendment 35

- We strongly urge reconsideration of the recreational minimum size limit issue for greater amberjack and recommend the size limit be increased to 34 inches and to eliminate the current closed season as a viable tradeoff.
- Overage deductions as part of the accountability measures revised in Action 1 should make adjustments to both the annual catch limit (ACL) and the annual catch target (ACT), but the ACT should be revised by using the ACT control rule adopted in the Generic ACL Amendment.

Sector Separation

- The approach should be focused on achieving management goals and strategies in order to better implement annual catch limits and accountability measures.

Greater Amberjack Rebuilding Plan

Based on data and analysis provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office¹ and as was discussed in our previous letter submitted before the January 2012 Gulf Council meeting², the greater amberjack population is unlikely to rebuild under the preferred alternatives selected in Amendment 35. The selected ACL is a mere 5% below the 2011 ACL and the ACT is 18% below the current ACL. The NMFS analysis indicates that a greater reduction in fishing mortality would be necessary to achieve the management goal of a 30% spawning potential ratio (SPR). Since the Council is not proposing to change any recreational fishing measures to achieve the ACT, there is a very minimal chance that rebuilding can be achieved.

Increasing the Recreational Minimum Size Limit to 34 Inches

At the current recreational minimum size limit of 30 inches (fork length), approximately 2% of females in the greater amberjack population are mature³ and have had a chance to reproduce at least once. Scientists have recommended for years that the size limit for greater amberjack be set where at least half the females are sexually mature, which is just less than 35 inches. As illustrated in Figure 2.2.4B of Amendment 35⁴ and shown in our previous letter, the SPR would trend upward from below 10% to approximately 15% with a minimum size limit of 34 inches under status quo fishing mortality. To achieve 30% SPR, even greater reductions in fishing mortality rates would be required.

With an increase in the minimum size limit for the recreational fishery, we fully acknowledge that discard mortality issues exist, as was discussed during the Council's January 2012 meeting. Most of these concerns have come from the for-hire industry, which makes up a little more than half of the recent historical landings for the greater amberjack recreational fishery.⁵ While

¹ Tab B, No 12(a), October 2011 Gulf Council Briefing Book. Greater Amberjack Yield-per-recruit and Spawning Potential Ratio Analysis for the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office. Sept. 30, 2011.

² PEG letter to Chairman Robert Gill, dated January 25, 2012.

³ Figure 2.2.1 Public Hearing Draft of Amendment 35, revised 12/23/11, pg 14.

⁴ Public Hearing Draft of Amendment 35, revised 12/23/11, pg 18.

⁵ SEDAR 9 Assessment Update, February 2011.

we think their concerns are credible and should be considered, it is important to prioritize what is best for the resource and the entire fishery. Based on the available data and analysis, **if the recreational size limit is increased to 34 inches** and the current closed season remained, the **overall mortality is reduced by 21%** even though dead discards increase by 17% relative to status quo (30 inch size limit).⁶ This analysis is based on the 20% release mortality rate used in the 2011 Greater Amberjack Assessment Update. However, discussion in that assessment update points to data that show release mortality for greater amberjack “*may be substantially lower than previously estimated.*” **Data for that 20% release mortality rate comes from observed trips off North Carolina, whereas data gathered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the University of Florida indicate release mortality rates may be less than 5% in the Gulf of Mexico.**⁷

If the closed season is eliminated, the total mortality would remain unchanged and the discard mortality would only increase by 6% (see graph below). We recognize that maintaining a year-round fishery may not be achievable as the population rebuilds in the coming years. However, we feel strongly that the initial benefits from the tradeoff of increasing the size limit to 34 inches and eliminating the 2-month closure are worthwhile. With a SEDAR benchmark assessment for greater amberjack scheduled for 2013, this approach could be viewed as an interim plan, with the understanding that conditions could change following that assessment.

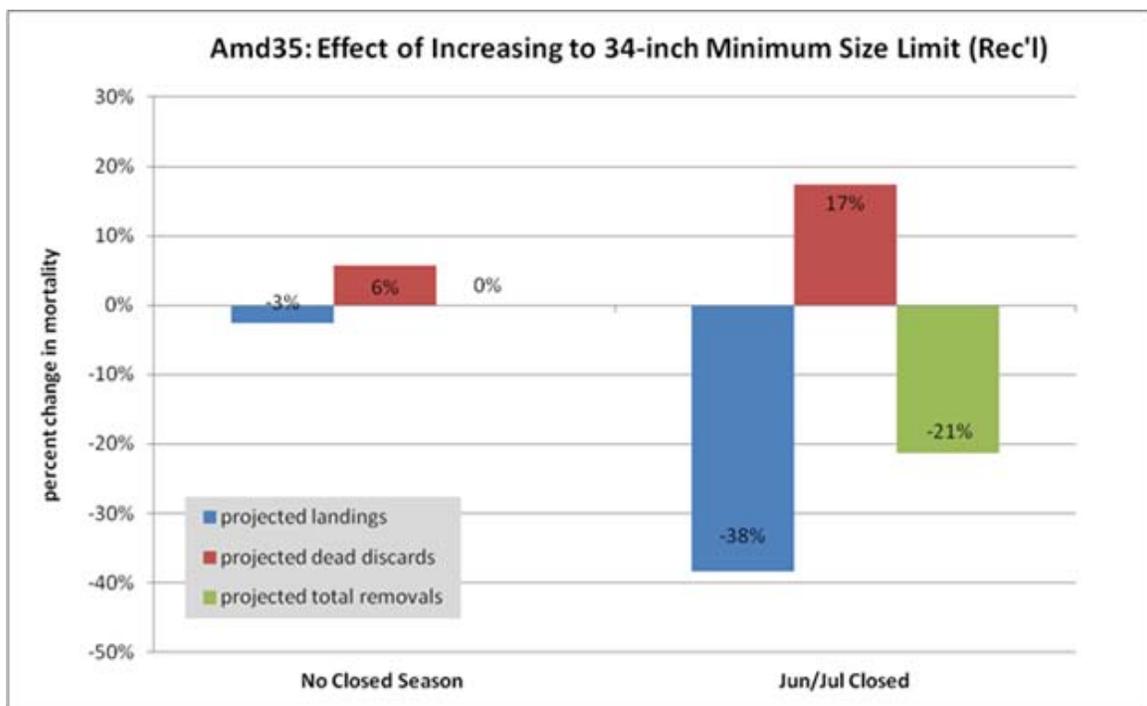


Figure created using the Recreational Decision Tool (Agenda item B7a, August 2011 Gulf Council briefing book)

⁶ Recreational Decision Tool for Amendment 35 08-09-11. Tab B – 7a, August 2011 Gulf Council briefing book.

⁷ SEDAR 9 Assessment Update, February 2011, Section 2.8, pp 22-23.

Given the biological benefits and reasonable tradeoffs with increasing the recreational minimum size limit, **the Council should revisit Action 2.1 and change the recreational minimal size limit from 30 inches to 34.**

Applying AMs to the ACL and ACT

We support the revisions to the AMs in Action 2.1 that adjusts both the ACL and ACT following any overages in the ACLs. However, rather than a doing a straight adjustment in ACT based on the amount that landings exceeded the ACL, **it would be more appropriate and consistent to adjust the ACT from the ACL using the Council's ACT control rule, as adopted in the Generic ACL Amendment.** As the ACT is a direct reduction of the ACL to account for management uncertainty, it seems that whenever the ACL is adjusted, the buffer provided by the control rule should be re-applied to that ACL. Not only does this provide consistency across FMPs, but it is also within the intent of National Standard 1 guidelines⁸ and the Council's Generic ACL Amendment⁹ for implementing ACLs.

Working within the confines of the ACT control rule allows the flexibility to adapt to changing fishery and data conditions. For example, if the fishery maintains catch within the prescribed ACL, there should be a reduction in the actual buffer between the ACL and ACT as management uncertainty decreases. While the reverse is also true, there is a built-in incentive for using the ACT control rule as data and management improves. Additionally, there are likely occasions when overage adjustments in the ACLs based on the overage amount may be greater than the reduction would be if the ACT is calculated using the control rule. And since the ACTs for greater amberjack are initially prescribed in Action 2.1 of Amendment 35 by using the ACT control rule, it is highly appropriate to use the control rule to re-set ACT levels following overage adjustments to the ACLs.

Sector Separation

We offer these general comments on the proposal to separate the recreational fishery into multiple sectors, as the Scoping Document is not yet available for review and specific feedback. Sector separation on its own is not a panacea. We believe that the goal should not just be to achieve separate sectors, but should focus more specifically on improving the Council's ability to monitor catch and bycatch; use adaptive management to adjust annual catch limits and implement accountability measures in a timely manner; and to provide maximum fishing opportunities while still keeping populations healthy or rebuilding those that are depleted. Thus, we strongly urge the Council to define explicit conservation, management and socio-economic goals that you hope to achieve via this approach early in this process. This would provide clarity to stakeholders, and benchmarks against which you can measure the effectiveness of different approaches.

⁸ 50 CFR §600.310(f)(6)

⁹ Final Generic Annual Catch Limits/Accountability Measures for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Red Drum, Reef Fish, Shrimp, Coral and Coral Reefs, Fishery Management Plans. Sept. 2011, Section 1.3, pg 3.

Sector separation does have the potential to improve fisheries monitoring, management, and ecosystem health by allowing for more customized tools and approaches for both private anglers and for-hire operators. This in turn has the potential to lead to better adherence to prescribed catch levels, a reduction in management uncertainty, and possibly an increase in some ACLs. Under present conditions, the for-hire sector and the private recreational sector operate much differently, and accounting for these differences in how these distinct fisheries are monitored could provide a more efficient ACL-AM system.

The for-hire fishery will soon presumably be under a requirement to report their fishing trip information and catch data electronically in a timelier manner than the present system. The private recreational fishery is also beginning to investigate other tools and systems that could be used to improve monitoring and reporting within their fishery. Under separate private recreational and for-hire ACLs and AMs, more tailored recreational management systems can be designed and put into effect that allow for more efficient monitoring of recreational fisheries and better capture the needs and aspects of each respective fishery.

As you deliberate on this issue at your April meeting, we encourage the Council to continue pursuing alternative approaches to fisheries management that could make the ACL / AM approach work more effectively for the recreational fishery, and to be clear and explicit about the goals you hope to achieve through this approach.

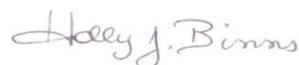
Conclusion

We strongly urge the Council to pursue a management strategy for greater amberjack that ensures management actions are sufficient to successfully end overfishing and rebuild the greater amberjack population. Rebuilding greater amberjack hinges on improving the biological condition of the population. The most apparent and significant way to achieve that presently is to increase the recreational minimum size limit to at least 34 inches so that the amberjack population can begin to be restored to full health and support a sustainable fishery in years to come. Additionally, we strongly encourage the Council to focus on better implementation of the ACLs and AMs within the recreational fishery as the primary objective in its deliberations on sector separation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these recommendations regarding Amendment 35 and sector separation. We look forward to continuing to work with the Council and staff to ensure our fisheries resources are managed sustainably.

Sincerely,



Chad Hanson
Senior Policy Analyst
Gulf of Mexico Fish Conservation Campaign
Pew Environment Group



Holly Binns
Director
Southeast Fish Conservation Campaigns
Pew Environment Group

April 10, 2012

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

Captain Troy Frady
Rock n Reel Charters, LLC
MV – Distraction
2165 Spanish Oak Dr.
Lillian, Alabama 36549

RE: AMENDMENT 35 – GREATER AMBERJACK SEASON.

Dear Gulf Council Members,

I would like to give you some thoughts and observations on Amendment 35. I am a US Small Business and a charter boat owner and operator. I represent Middle America who uses charter boats as access to a public trust resource. My customers do not live near the water and do not own their own boats, but do have the same rights to fair and equitable access to the marine resources.

In recent years, my ability to operate my business has eroded to a point where I am limited to a season that depends solely upon tourism. My busiest time of the year is now the summer months and a limited window during spring break. I depend on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to make both science based and common sense decisions when it comes to fishing seasons and bag limits. As with any business that operates in commerce, I need the ability to market and try to make my living year round. I also need a trophy fish or something to catch at all times. It makes no sense to me to have every fishery open only during the summer months to benefit only those private boat owners or people who do not depend on the resource to make their living. We need a staggered fishing season in every fishery in order to have a chance to make it in the charter fishing industry.

In the most recent Amberjack Stock Assessment, The Scientific Staff that you appointed deemed it to be “UNFIT FOR MANAGEMENT USE.” I always support using the best available science for fishery management. However, when the science is lacking, there comes a time when fishery managers must rely on common sense.

In 2011, you used a common sense approach to the Amberjack season and the fishery came in under quota. We did not have to pay anything back. That is a testament where using common sense worked.

I strongly urge you to yield to common sense with the Amberjack Fishery and keep it closed during the summer months, which has the highest historical fishing pressure.

Also, If you raise the size limit above 30 inches on the Amberjack, fishermen who fish fish in areas closer to shore (within 30 miles south of Orange Beach) where fishing pressure is highest, you will be catching 10 Amberjack for every 1 keeper. All I know is, when the water is hot and the oxygen level is depleted, a released fish often becomes a dead fish and dead fish do not spawn.

I urge you to use common sense and leave the Amberjack season alone in 2012. It's working.

Sincerely,

Troy Frady

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
1/18/2012 19:39:38	Ed Makatura	edmakatu@yahoo.com	Why does the council treat the Gulf like one big pond? i.e. fishing pressure on Red snapper here in the Middle grounds area is much less than it is in the panhandle because of the distance that boats have to run to catch them. Seems to me that everyone - fish and fishermen - would benefit if the gulf was divided into sectors based on habitat, species, pressure, economic impact etc. Focusing solely on annual catch seems too narrow. The council is corrupt and I will no longer follow its laws.	st pete, fl, 33708	Private Recreational Angler
1/25/2012 13:38:54	Eric Lyons	ejl5832@hotmail.com	I will make this short and simple. Red snapper, mangro snapper and amberjack are so plentiful in the Gulf of Mexico off of the southern Louisiana coast. All platforms which in turn supplies as an artifical reef for offshore saltwater species, this new "management" is ridiculous.	Houma, LA, 70363	Private Recreational Angler
2/4/2012 17:59:03	Gerald Motley	motleycru@att.net	Please forward to ALL Gulf Council members: Please consider the proposed changes to the AJ season. It would make great sense to me and other fishermen to close AJ season while snapper is closed. AJs are a by catch with snapper and it makes so much sense to have it opened while you are very busy with the unnecessarily shortened snapper season. Close AJs at the same time as the commercial season and LET US FISH!!! Use scientifically backed data and you will realize the mistakes that are being made in management. Thank you for your time. Gerald Motley	chattanooga, TN 37406	Private Recreational Angler
2/5/2012 15:11:58	Gerald Motley	motleycru@att.net	Please forward to ALL voting members of the council: Please vote for and implement the 34" FL for amberjacks to keep the season open year round. Don't use flawed data to determine the season as you are currently using. The data provided by NMFS is wrong because it will not take into consideration fish associated near or on artificial structure. Thank you for your time. Gerald Motley	Chattanooga, TN 37406	Private Recreational Angler
2/7/2012 9:22:34	Capt Tom Adams	4tomadams@gmail.com	The amberjack are plentiful --the same as snapper. I feel that you should make rules for different areas. The entire Gulf is not the same. Probably should have a Goliath Grouper season in South Florida. Longer snapper season in the n gulf. 30 inch fork for AJ, 1 per person. Close the AJ when the grouper are closed if it has to be closed r Recs should get a bigger split 55% of all fisheries	PORT ST JOE	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat For-Hire
2/7/2012 12:50:37	George Heard	debbie2348@yahoo.com	Please let it be known that I am in favor of a weekend season only for the Red Snapper Season. I work out of state, own a 30' boat. When the weather finally calms down and after trying to get time off to fish snappers, the season is closed for the first of August. The season needs to be longer. I would like to see a Friday, Saturday, & Sunday only season running from Mid June thru November. Respectfully, George Heard 337-405-9283	Grand Chenier, La. 70643	Private Recreational Angler
2/7/2012 20:24:27	Gerald Motley	motleycru@att.net	Please forward to ALL members of the gulf Council: Please consider using quality scientific data to determine the fishing seasons. Please come fishing in the Gulf to see just how many red snapper there really are. If we catch more of them, it will allow some of the other species to do better. I challenge any of you to come and fish the oil rigs with us and see for your selves. You also should consider mangaing the Gulf in areas because there are different numbers of species in different areas of the Gulf. I am for increasing the size limit on AJs to 34" instead of closingt he season. Thank you for your consideration. Gerald Motley	chattanooga, TN 37406	Private Recreational Angler

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
2/7/2012 20:25:09	Gerald Motley	motleycru@att.net	Please forward to ALL members of the gulf Council: Please consider using quality scientific data to determine the fishing seasons. Please come fishing in the Gulf to see just how many red snapper there really are. If we catch more of them, it will allow some of the other species to do better. I challenge any of you to come and fish the oil rigs with us and see for your selves. You also should consider mangaing the Gulf in areas because there are different numbers of species in different areas of the Gulf. I am for increasing the size limit on AJs to 34" instead of closingt he season. Thank you for your consideration. Gerald Motley	chattanooga. TN 37406	Private Recreational Angler
2/9/2012 13:48:43	Eric elias	megalodon45@yahoo.com	Please open amberjack with red snapper. I have been sportfishing out of cypremort point la for 30 years. There are more fish than ever, epic amounts. I would be more than happy to take u guys along to show you. The recreational industry is dying because of these regulations. The two tackle shops/mariners have closed down. Outboard boat dealers don't even carry offshore boats anymore. The season needs to be longer with more liberal limits. Thanks Eric	lafayette,la 79508	Private Recreational Angler
2/17/2012 19:21:39	Richard Hien Vo	rhvo24@yahoo.com	The reef fish amendment 35, which proposes a 2000 pound commercial trip limit will be detrimental to my business. The low market value of greater amberjack averages around \$1.00 year round and consequently it does not have a desirable commercial value to justify expending costly resources. However, I have relied on this particular catch of fish to build my livelihood. Thirty percent of my commercial fishing business income is generated from greater amberjack. If the Council selects to limit the commercial catch to 2000 pounds per trip, then my total maximum catch for the year will be 36,000 pounds, a drastic decrease from 120,000 pounds per year that I currently fish. I am in favor of no modifications to the current annual catch limit.	Houston, TX 77083	Commercial Fisher
2/23/2012 9:17:11	Gerald Motley	motleycru@att.net	Please forward to ALL council members: I don't ever get a response so I hope everyone gets these like they are supposed to. Please go to the larger minimum size on AJ and keep them open year round. If you can't dothis then close the season the same time recreationally as commercially. It makes good sense to be able to catch them when you are targetting snapper because they tend to be together. Thank you. Gerald Motley	Chattanooga, TN 37406	Private Recreational Angler
3/2/2012 12:49:51	Richard DeVoe	ryd22@bellsouth.net	Leave the rec. minimum size at 30" and move the closed season to coincide with the commercial closure during the AJ spawn (March-May). It's rather simple. This now alleviates the bycatch issue during June (and hopefully July) with Red Snapper and then with Gags when they (hopefully) open in July.	Gainesville, FL 32653	Private Recreational Angler
3/7/2012 20:00:17	Gerald Motley	motleycru@att.net	Please forward to ALL Gulf Council members. To all, Of all your options available, as a Gulf fisherman I would like to see the 36" size limit implemented with no closure. If not this, the second best option would be to close the season at the same time that the commercial season is closed because this is the prime spawning season. Also, if you impose a boat limit commercially, it would help them to keep the proce they can earn higher instead of them flooding the market and making the price drop dramatically. Thank you for your time and keep us Americans fishing as much as possible. Gerald Motley	Chattanooga, TN 37406	Private Recreational Angler
4/4/2012 9:51:09	Shawn Coco	cuzf15@gmail.com	The simultaneous closure of AJ and Red Snapper in late July has a negative impact on many different types of recreational fishing, including charter guides and individuals. The summer long closure of AJ impacts most fishermen and all the rodeos. Recommend have both closed simultaneously in May/ early June, and open for the second half of June through July.	Belle Chasse, LA 70037	Private Recreational Angler

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
4/4/2012 11:25:07	Bradley Leopold	yellowmouth33@yahoo.com	<p>By closing the amberjack June 1st through the whole summer, you all are taking away a vital part of what people pay money to come down here to catch. Amberjack are always considered a good filler of the box and make the customer happy, however, I do understand it would be not right to catch them while they spawn. If they mostly spawn during the month of May, why not close the season then and reopen it June 1st? Your inability to correctly manage the Red Snapper have already caused many fishermen (charter and private) to stop going as often. This is not just because they can only catch 2 red snapper per person, but because you are almost guaranteed to catch and probably kill red snapper while fishing for anything else at an oil rig. Right now you have closed two main game fish (red snapper and amberjack) for the part of the season when most anglers fish. What is the point of "saving" two species that are not threatened when you hardly allow people to catch them? The only thing that this is going to increase is the death of by catch, by reeling in red snapper and amberjack</p> <p>The Gulf Council is proposing to close the Red Snapper in just under 40 days AND also close Amberjack season for the rest of July (a 20 day gap) -- doing this means there are no "Trophy" fish to fish for most of July -- the Peak of the Charter Season. And from what I've heard the commercial and Charter captains are way past mad about the snapper situation already. This is Not a good situation for the fishery or the fishermen. The following solution gives them their Snapper early, adds about twenty days to the proposed AJ season, lets the pregnant female AJ lay their eggs, adds about 300,000 # of AJ to the buffer, AND opens AJ for the summer rodeos.</p> <p>Right Now we have:</p> <p>Snapper Opens June 1 Closes July 10? (40 Days)</p> <p>AJ Closes June 1 Opens July 31</p> <p>Note: The AJ are breeding in May Fla catches 300,000 lbs of AJ in May</p> <p>IF WE WENT TO THE FOLLOWING EVERYBODY SHOULD BE HAPPY (?)!!!!!!!</p> <p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +/-)</p> <p>AJ Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>PROBLEMS SOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) You don't over fish the snapper 2.) The breeding AJ get to breed 3.) You add approximately 300,000 lbs to the AJ buffer 4.) You add approximately 20 days of fishing to the AJ season (which means more trips for the charter fleet) 5.) The charter captains sell their extra trips at the PEAK of the fishing season 6.) AJ is open for the summer Rodeos 	Metairie, LA, 70005	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat For-Hire
4/4/2012 12:17:53	Walter J. Stone	wjstone@gandolfokuhn.com	<p>Thank You Walter J. Stone</p>	Harahan, La. 70123	Private Recreational Angler
4/4/2012 12:40:00	Kennan Bond	toddbond1@gmail.com	<p>We need to make the American Red Snapper a game fish like that was done with the Red Fish. Their population is healthy as evidenced by the raising of the limits.</p>	Pace FL 32571	Private Recreational Angler

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
4/4/2012 13:18:45	Christin Moses	christinmoses@hotmail.com	I agree with the amendment ! Thank you.	New Orleans, La, 70125	Private Recreational Angler, Other
4/4/2012 13:34:23	Jonathan Nemeth	jonathannemeth@yahoo.com	<p>Concerning the closure of the Amberjack season. Why is the season not scheduled to be closed during the spawning season for this fish. Rather than a June/July closure during the peak of the recreational fishing season. I would like the council to consider a May 1st to June 10th closure which will allow the females bearing eggs to be protected. Adjusting the closure date will have a greater impact on the population of this fish. Please consider this as an option.</p> <p>A Concerned Sportsman.</p>	New Orleans, LA 70124	Private Recreational Angler

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
4/4/2012 13:43:11	Greg Speyrer	gspeyrer@gmail.com	<p>The Gulf Council is proposing to close the Red Snapper in just under 40 days AND also close Amberjack season for the rest of July (a 20 day gap) -- doing this means there are no "Trophy" fish to fish for most of July – the Peak of the Charter Season. The above proposed schedule does not establish a reasonable balance for fisheries, commercial or sport fishermen, and management of the red snapper and Amberjack populations.</p> <p>The following solution would strike a better balance for all parties concerned; In general, following approaches gives fishermen an early Snapper season, adds about twenty days to the proposed Amberjack season, lets the pregnant female Amberjack lay eggs, adds and estimated 300,000 lbs of Amberjack to the population, and makes Amberjack available for the summer rodeos.</p> <p>Currently:</p> <p>Snapper Opens June 1 Closes July 10? (40 Days)</p> <p>Amberjack Closes June 1 Opens July 31</p> <p>Note: The Amber Jack are breeding in May Florida will harvest 300,000 lbs of Amber Jack in May</p> <p>Proposed:</p> <p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +/-)</p> <p>Amberjack Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>PROBLEMS RESOLVED:</p> <p>Red Snapper are not over fished Amber Jack are allowed to breed Adds approximately 300,000 lbs to the Amberjack buffer Adds approximately 20 days of fishing to the Amberjack season Helps charter fleets to offer additional fishing charters. The charter captains sell their extra trips at the PEAK of the fishing season Amberjack is open for the summer rodeos</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	New Orleans, LA 70122	Private Recreational Angler
4/4/2012 13:50:28	Justin Barnhill	Bigbarn8266@gmail.com	<p>I do not agree with the Amberjack And snapper situation right now. As a diver, we see more red snapper than almost any other fish. Also, when fishing rod and reel, you catch a TON of red snapper before you can catch other species. Also, closing Amberjack would only put a Hurt on Rec and charter fisherman. With AJ's breeding in May, we're still fishing them while/once they are bred. I propose opening red snapper may 1st through june 10th so we dont overfish(same 40 day season) and closing Amberjack May 1st through June 10th so that they can breed, and the people who make a living off of the gulf can still do so by booking trips during peak season.</p>	Belle chasse LA 70037	Private Recreational Angler, Other

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
4/4/2012 14:36:08	Dan McKinzey	dmckinzey@cox.net	<p>The gulf council is proposing to close the Red Snapper in just under 40 days AND also close Amberjack season for the rest of July (a 20 day gap) -- doing this means there are no "Trophy" fish to fish for most of July – the Peak of the Charter Season. And from what I've heard the commercial and Charter captains are way past mad about the snapper situation already. This is Not a good situation for the fishery or the fishermen. The following solution gives them their Snapper early, adds about twenty days to the proposed AJ season, lets the pregnant female AJ lay their eggs, adds about 300,000 # of AJ to the buffer, AND opens AJ for the summer rodeos.</p> <p>Right Now we have:</p> <p>Snapper Opens June 1 Closes July 10? (40 Days)</p> <p>AJ Closes June 1 Opens July 31</p> <p>Note: The AJ are breeding in May Fla catches 300,000 lbs of AJ in May</p> <p>IF WE WENT TO THE FOLLWING EVERYBODY SHOULD BE HAPPY (?)!!!!!!!!!</p> <p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +-)</p> <p>AJ Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>PROBLEMS SOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) You don't over fish the snapper 2.) The breeding AJ get to breed 3.) You add approximately 300,000 lbs to the AJ buffer 4.) You add approximately 20 days of fishing to the AJ season (which means more trips for the charter fleet) 5.) The charter captains sell their extra trips at the PEAK of the fishing season 6.) AJ is open for the summer Rodeos 	Kenner, LA 70065	Private Recreational Angler

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
4/4/2012 14:57:46	CHARLES N LIRETTE JR	SPEARFISHERMEN@YAHOO	<p>The gulf council is proposing to close the Red Snapper in just under 40 days AND also close Amberjack season for the rest of July (a 20 day gap) -- doing this means there are no "Trophy" fish to fish for most of July – the Peak of the Charter Season. And from what I've heard the commercial and Charter captains are way past mad about the snapper situation already. This is Not a good situation for the fishery or the fishermen.</p> <p>The following solution gives them their Snapper early, adds about twenty days to the proposed AJ season, lets the pregnant female AJ lay their eggs, adds about 300,000 # of AJ to the buffer, AND opens AJ for the summer rodeos.</p> <p>Right Now we have:</p> <p>Snapper Opens June 1 Closes July 10? (40 Days)</p> <p>AJ Closes June 1 Opens July 31</p> <p>Note: The AJ are breeding in May Fla catches 300,000 lbs of AJ in May</p> <p>IF WE WENT TO THE FOLLWING EVERYBODY SHOULD BE HAPPY (?)!!!!!!!!!</p> <p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +-)</p> <p>AJ Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>PROBLEMS SOLVED:</p> <p>1.) You don't over fish the snapper 2.) The breeding AJ get to breed 3.) You add approximately 300,000 lbs to the AJ buffer</p> <p>4.) You add approximately 20 days of fishing to the AJ season (which means more trips for the charter fleet)</p> <p>5.) The charter captains sell their extra trips at the PEAK of the fishing season</p> <p>6.) AJ is open for the summer Rodeos</p>	METAIRIE, LA, 70005	Private Recreational Angler
4/4/2012 15:56:55	john nette	jnette1@cox.net	amberjack should be closed april may open june 10th!	70087	Private Recreational Angler, Commercial Fisher
4/4/2012 16:26:03	joshua bardin	jbardin2550@gmail.com	This makes more sense.	pensacola, fl, 32526	Private Recreational Angler

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
4/4/2012 18:47:02	Vincent Dosev	vdseven@gmail.com	<p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +-)</p> <p>AJ Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>PROBLEMS SOLVED: 1.) You don't over fish the snapper 2.) The breeding AJ get to breed 3.) You add approximately 300,000 lbs to the AJ buffer 4.) You add approximately 20 days of fishing to the AJ season (which means more trips for the charter fleet) 5.) The charter captains sell their extra trips at the PEAK of the fishing season 6.) AJ is open for the summer Rodeos</p>	Pensacola, Florida, 32503	Private Recreational Angler
4/4/2012 18:58:51	Mark McCloskey	markdmccloskey@yahoo.com	<p>Please rethink the proposal for the amberjack closure from june 1-july30. Right now is when they are laying eggs. I have gone on several trips in recent weeks and every amberjack is about to spawn. Please think about closing the season ASAP until June 16th. By June 16th, the vast majority would have laid their eggs.</p> <p>Thanks for your time,</p> <p>Mark McCloskey</p>	New Orleans, LA 70124	Private Recreational Angler
4/4/2012 19:21:13	Charles ROMANO	crfixitman@aol.com	<p>Please extend the season</p> <p>This would be a huge meeting point! IF WE WENT TO THE FOLLWING EVERYBODY SHOULD BE HAPPY ?</p> <p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +-)</p> <p>AJ Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>PROBLEMS SOLVED: 1.) You don't over fish the snapper 2.) The breeding AJ get to breed 3.) You add approximately 300,000 lbs to the AJ buffer</p> <p>4.) You add approximately 20 days of fishing to the AJ season (which means more trips for the charter fleet)</p> <p>5.) The charter captains sell their extra trips at the PEAK of the fishing season</p> <p>6.) AJ is open for the summer Rodeos</p>	Slidell LA. 701458	Private Recreational Angler
4/4/2012 19:28:12	Joe Eubanks	eubanks563@yahoo.com	<p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +-)</p> <p>AJ Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>PROBLEMS SOLVED: 1.) You don't over fish the snapper 2.) The breeding AJ get to breed 3.) You add approximately 300,000 lbs to the AJ buffer</p> <p>4.) You add approximately 20 days of fishing to the AJ season (which means more trips for the charter fleet)</p> <p>5.) The charter captains sell their extra trips at the PEAK of the fishing season</p> <p>6.) AJ is open for the summer Rodeos</p>	Kenner, LA 70065	Private Recreational Angler

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
4/5/2012 5:46:16	ryan doty	ryandoty@cox.net	<p>snapper idea: I have to agree with this guys proposed dates for snapper. You guys are out of control and are helping to kill an industry here in louisiana!</p> <p>Snapper Opens June 1 Closes July 10? (40 Days)</p> <p>AJ Closes June 1 Opens July 31</p> <p>Note: The AJ are breeding in May Fla catches 300,000 lbs of AJ in May</p> <p>IF WE WENT TO THE FOLLWING EVERYBODY SHOULD BE HAPPY (?)!!!!!!!!!</p> <p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +-)</p> <p>AJ Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>PROBLEMS SOLVED: 1.) You don't over fish the snapper 2.) The breeding AJ get to breed 3.) You add approximately 300,000 lbs to the AJ buffer 4.) You add approximately 20 days of fishing to the AJ season (which means more trips for the charter fleet) 5.) The charter captains sell their extra trips at the PEAK of the fishing season 6.) AJ is open for the summer Rodeos</p>	prairieville, la	Private Recreational Angler
4/5/2012 7:07:52	david FOX	dfoxkiller@aol.com	<p>!!!</p> <p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +-)</p> <p>AJ Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p>	metairie LA 70003	Private Recreational Angler
4/5/2012 8:25:26	Raleigh L. Bourg Jr.	Rbourg3@gmail.com	<p>Please modify seasons to allow trophy rig fish to be open as follows:</p> <p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +-)</p> <p>Amberjack Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>This gives sport fishing an opportunity to harvest during rodeo season.</p>	New Orleans, LA, 70118	Private Recreational Angler
4/5/2012 14:16:13	Kevin Casey	kwcasey35@embarqmail.com	<p>At some point in time you have to make a decision that proves to Charter/Commercial Fishermen that you do care about them and the fish.. Right now the only rules y'all have put into effect that makes any since at all is the Gag Grouper Season.. Start making good decisions or you will never have the Fisherman on board with you. All we ask you to do is make smart educated decisions.. So far your batting average is .000!!!!</p>	Crestview, Florida, 32539	Private Recreational Angler
4/5/2012 18:42:51	Stephen Kevitte Cone	cones7576@gmail.com	Please	Milton, Florida 32570	Private Recreational Angler

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
4/6/2012 12:53:08	Patrick Hebert	abe351@gmail.com	<p>Please increase the minimum size limit to 34" and avoid any closed season this year. I would even be ok with increasing the size limit and closing the season during the spawn from may 1 to june 10</p> <p>Why is the season not scheduled to be closed during the spawning season for this fish. Rather than a June/July closure during the peak of the recreational fishing season. I would like the council to consider a May 1st to June 10th closure which will allow the females bearing eggs to be protected. Adjusting the closure date will have a greater impact on the population of this fish. Please consider this as an option.</p> <p>IF WE WENT TO THE FOLLWING EVERYBODY SHOULD BE HAPPY (?)!!!!!!!!!</p>	New Orleans, LA 70123	Private Recreational Angler
4/7/2012 8:26:52	Dustin Gibbons	dustinandshannon2@yahoo.com	<p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +-)</p> <p>AJ Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>PROBLEMS SOLVED: 1.) You don't over fish the snapper 2.) The breeding AJ get to breed 3.) You add approximately 300,000 lbs to the AJ buffer 4.) You add approximately 20 days of fishing to the AJ season (which means more trips for the charter fleet) 5.) The charter captains sell their extra trips at the PEAK of the fishing season 6.) AJ is open for the summer Rodeos</p>	Pensacola, FL 32514	Private Recreational Angler
4/7/2012 9:23:05	Kenneth Conolly	kenconolly@gmail.com	<p>Right Now we have:</p> <p>Snapper Opens June 1 Closes July 10? (40 Days)</p> <p>AJ Closes June 1 Opens July 31</p> <p>Note: The AJ are breeding in May Fla catches 300,000 lbs of AJ in May</p> <p>IF WE WENT TO THE FOLLWING EVERYBODY SHOULD BE HAPPY (?)!!!!!!!!!</p> <p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +-)</p> <p>AJ Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>PROBLEMS SOLVED: 1.) You don't over fish the snapper 2.) The breeding AJ get to breed 3.) You add approximately 300,000 lbs to the AJ buffer 4.) You add approximately 20 days of fishing to the AJ season (which means more trips for the charter fleet) 5.) The charter captains sell their extra trips at the PEAK of the fishing season 6.) AJ is open for the summer Rodeos</p>	Niceville, FL	Private Recreational Angler

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
4/9/2012 7:20:24	Keith Crescioni, Jr.	keith@priorityonecomputers.com	<p>IF WE WENT TO THE FOLLOWING EVERYBODY SHOULD BE HAPPY</p> <p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10</p> <p>AJ Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>PROBLEMS SOLVED: 1.) You don't over fish the snapper 2.) The breeding AJ get to breed 3.) You add approximately 300,000 lbs to the AJ buffer 4.) You add approximately 20 days of fishing to the AJ season (which means more trips for the charter fleet) 5.) The charter captains sell their extra trips at the PEAK of the fishing season 6.) AJ is open for the summer Rodeos</p>	Metairie, LA 70001	Private Recreational Angler
4/9/2012 19:37:31	eric j spahn	espahn48@att.net	<p>i would support walter stones,idea,that we open red snapper may 1 and close june 10. close amberjack may 1 and open june 10.i am a louisiana spearfisherman, and i have seen thousands of red snapper on oil rigs for the past 10 years,i cant understand the short season.i wish i could bring someone from the management council on my boat to witness the incredibly large stock of red snapper we have in the gulf of mexico.p.s.my phone # is 504-452-5780 thanks eric.</p> <p>I am all in favor of the following seasons:</p> <p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +/-)</p> <p>AJ Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>With the price of gas, it does not pay to drive all the way out to catch one amberjack or two snapper. It makes sense, however, to put both seasons together because most, if not all, anglers target both species. Win-win situation.</p>	jefferson,la.70121	Other
4/10/2012 10:42:05	Scott Stansbury	scott.c.stansbury@gmail.com	<p>Snapper Open May 1 Closes June 10? (40 days +/-)</p> <p>AJ Closes May 1 Opens June 10</p> <p>With the price of gas, it does not pay to drive all the way out to catch one amberjack or two snapper. It makes sense, however, to put both seasons together because most, if not all, anglers target both species. Win-win situation.</p>	Harahan, LA 70123	Private Recreational Angler