

January 25, 2017

Carole L. Neidig, M.S.
Staff Scientist
Mote Marine Laboratory
Directorate for Fisheries and Aquaculture
1600 Ken Thompson Parkway
Sarasota, FL 34236

RE: Support for Exempted Fishing Permit Request – Electronic Video Monitoring Pilot Program, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders’ Alliance.

Dear Chairwoman Bosarge,

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to recommend that the National Marine Fisheries Service move forward with granting the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Reef Fish Shareholders’ Alliance request for a two-year Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) for limited testing of electronic video monitoring (EM) systems to monitor and avoid sea turtle bycatch during bottom longline vessel trips targeting groupers and snappers inside the reef fish bottom longline seasonal closure area in the eastern Gulf of Mexico during the months of June–August 2017 and 2018.

Mote Marine Laboratory (MML) and partners (including the Shareholders’ Alliance) have been integral in the development of Electronic Monitoring (EM) in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) snapper / grouper fishery through leadership and partnerships in several important projects including:

- 2013-2014, with the Ocean Conservancy (lead agency), GOM Reef Fish Shareholders’ Alliance (SA), and Archipelago Marine Research, Inc. (AMR) in a NFWF funded study “Regional Capacity Building for GOM Reef Fish EM Phase 1”. Successfully tested EM in documenting catch and fishing effort.
- 2014-2017, MML (lead agency), GOM Reef Fish Shareholders’ Alliance, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (Darden/Publix), Save-On, AMR, and Waterinterface LLC. a NFWF funded study – “EM in The GOM Reef Fish Fishery Phase II”. Increased regional capacity building for EM and integration with NMFS for future Gulf-wide commercial fishing fleet implementation. Project oversight and execution was transferred to MML from the OC and partnerships were established with industry and management to further implement EM in the GOM and establish MML as local and regional EM center.
- 2016 - 2017, MML (lead agency), Saltwater Inc., GOM Reef Fish Shareholders’ Alliance, Darden/Publix, Save-On, Fishbusterz, and Waterinterface LLC. Environmental Defense Fund funded study “Accurately Assessing Catch and Bycatch with EM: The GOM Reef Fish Fishery as a Model for EM Application and Improvement”. Focus on shark bycatch and discards and improve EM methods to support collection of accurate fisheries dependent data.

BOCA GRANDE OFFICE

PO Box 870
Boca Grande, FL 33921
(941) 855-9251

CHARLOTTE HARBOR RESEARCH STATION

Demere Key, FL
(941) 388-4441

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874 W.R. Mote Way
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MOTE LIVING REEF EXHIBIT AT THE NOAA ECO-DISCOVERY CENTER

35 East Quay Road
Key West, FL 33040
(305) 296-2325

TROPICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

24244 Overseas Highway
Summerland Key, FL 33042
(305) 745-3554

A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO ADVANCING THE SCIENCE OF THE SEA AND A MEMBER OF:

American Academy of Underwater Sciences • Arts & Cultural Alliance of Sarasota • Association of Zoos & Aquariums • Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean • Consortium for Ocean Leadership • Economic Development Council of Sarasota County • Florida Institute of Oceanography • Florida Ocean Alliance • Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce • Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System • International Association of Aquatic & Marine Science Libraries & Information Centers • International Consortium for Marine Conservation • National Association of Marine Laboratories Science & Environment Council of Sarasota County • Sea Grant • Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association • Southern Association of Marine Laboratories

Two additional EM projects focusing on bycatch in the GOM snapper/grouper bottom longline and vertical line (Bandit) fishery are in place for 2017-2019 including a NOAA/NMFS Cooperative Research Project and a NFWF Gulf-Wide EM project.

The proposed EFP presents an important collaborative pilot program that aims to demonstrate the viability of EM for monitoring, assessing, and reducing the number and condition of sea turtle interactions in the Gulf's commercial bottom longline fishery. Through this program, NMFS would be provided with valuable catch and effort data from the restricted area as well as quantification of incidental sea turtle bycatch interactions and identification of possible hotspot areas for fishers to avoid.

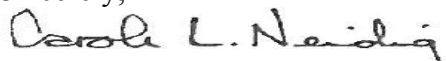
Onboard data collection with EM provides an advantage, because the fishing location and catch and bycatch composition can be observed directly, and in the case of EM, be permanently documented on video. The technology and use of EM has evolved, particularly in the GOM, and is being proven to be an important tool for at-sea documentation of catch and bycatch, which are key components for providing data necessary for fishery researchers, scientists, and management for quantitative estimates of discards in the fisheries for use in stock assessments and in making management decisions.

Mote is poised to work in partnership with industry and our equipment and technical subcontractors to promote and increase fisheries data integrity through this program. There are vessel captains experienced in the use of the technology and MML experienced staff have EM review hardware and software in place at MML. Mote's technical service subcontractor, Waterinterface, LLC, has a working rapport with the fleet and Saltwater Inc. has been working closely with MML to further develop and refine equipment and their non-proprietary review software designed by SWI and MML specifically for application to the GOM snapper/grouper fishery. Mote has also receives guidance through SERO, SEFSC, and the ACCSP and has NMFS researchers providing expertise and guidance on this valuable work.

This EFP is a strong step forward in bridging the gap between pilot programs and EM implementation. We hope that the Gulf Council will support it and recommend that NMFS move forward with approval.

Thank you for your support. Please contact me with any questions you may have. We look forward to continuing our important collaborative EM work in the Gulf.

Sincerely,



Carole L. Neidig, M.S.

Staff Scientist, cneidig@mote.org / 941-704-7663

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April 26 2013

Subject: Head boat IFQ

To Whom It May Concern:

I have two major concerns about this head boat IFQ program that is on the table.

First, I have been in the fishing business (carrying passengers for hire) for 35 years. For the past 30 years I have held a 49 passenger federal reef fish permit that states on the permit, charter boat/head boat. There is no distinguishing factor on the permit that states one or the other. There is a passenger limit stated that is 49 passengers. Therefore, I contacted the NMFS to see if I would qualify for this proposed exempted head boat permit. I was told NO! You have not participated in the head boat logbook program. To my knowledge, I don't recall ever being asked to participate in such a program. But I do have a federal reef fish permit for both the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic and it states 49 passengers and is a head boat/ charter boat permit.

Second, I really don't see a need to give a hand full of so-called privileged head boats an exempted permit to fish for Red Snapper. In my opinion, if you can't book you vessel during June and July regardless of what you can catch, **YOU NEED TO FIND ANOTHER OCCUPATION!** Why are we harvesting a species during the time they are full of eggs anyway, when we are trying to increase the population.

An economic study of an exempted permit for a select few is the most ignorant thing I have ever heard of. It will do nothing but create animosity and hardships between user groups that is not necessary to determine the economics of an open or closed fishery. It's not rocket science, simply go back five or six years and look at the number of trips a vessel ran when we had a 160-day Red Snapper season. Check his or her bank deposits, fuel receipts, bait receipts and crew payment records. This will give you a good idea of then and now.

I can tell you this, if I was given an exempted or open permit, I could get on the phone and be booked 365 days a year. All I have to do is start calling my old customers and advertising that, yes we can catch Red Snapper. Is this really a true economic study? I guess in today's government and the land of grants, is this really a true economic study. I think you are creating a handful of "Golden Head Boats."

Sincerely,

Jerry Andrews

Entertainer Charter, LLC
820 Silver Strand
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563
850-232-8252

Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 29, 2013 10:34 PM
From: Janis Tankersley <ladyjcharters@gmail.com>
To: <0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov>
Cc: Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Headboat IFQ

To Whom It May Concern:

I am definitely against the Headboat IFQ's and sector separation. I am also against the IFQ used in charter fishing.

Sincerely,

Captain Randon Hicks
Lady J Charters

Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 29, 2013 10:33 PM
From: Janis Tankersley <ladyjcharters@gmail.com>
To: <0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov>
Cc: Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Headboat IFQ

To Whom It May Concern:

I am definitely against the Headboat IFQ's and sector separation. I am also against the IFQ used in charter fishing.

Sincerely,

Captain Jacob Tankersley
Southern Lady Charters (Owner)

Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 29, 2013 10:30 PM
From: Janis Tankersley <ladyjcharters@gmail.com>
To: <0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov>
Cc: Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Headboat IFQ

To Whom It May Concern:

I am definitely against the Headboat IFQ's and sector separation. I am also against the IFQ used in charter fishing. I have been in this business for 30 years and have to say I now know how the American Indian felt.

Sincerely,

Captain Danny Tankersley
Lady J Charter (Owner)

Subject: `Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 27, 2013 11:20 AM
From: Jack Ferrera <j.ferrera@captjack.net>
Reply-To: <j.ferrera@CaptJack.net>
To: <0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov>, Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: `Headboat IFQ

I would like it to be known that I am against the EDF requests for support of the proposed headboat exempted fishing permit.

To further divide the recreational fishing community while still unable to establish any realistic bag/ season limits, etc is just another attempt to "bamboozle" anglers into a "SECTOR SEPARATION" scheme.

To allocate ANY portion of the recreational quota to ANY "special" (read as "permitted") segment of stakeholders has the feel of a "money grab", regardless of name placed on it.

Creating a permit process does not change one undeniable fact!

What fisheries managers, for the most part, fail to realize when pondering these decisions, is that fish are a PUBLIC RESOURCE, meant to be used in a fair and equitable manner by any/ all interested parties.

Respectfully submitted

Capt. Jack Ferrera



April 25, 2013

Chair Doug Boyd
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607 Phone: 813-348-1630
Fax: 813-348-1711

Dear Chairman Boyd:

On behalf of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) and fishermen in the Gulf, I would personally like to thank and applaud all members of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) and staff for their efforts at the meeting in Gulfport, Mississippi during the week of April 15-18, 2013. During this meeting, some difficult issues were discussed pertaining to the management of recreational fishing in the Gulf. Much progress has been made for all fishermen along the Gulf and there are many more plans in the works to help the fisheries and fishermen. Many fishermen that do not attend the meetings or fully understand the federal fishery management process blame the Council for the current regulations without acknowledging that the Council's actions and inactions are forced on them by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the nation's primary federal fisheries law, the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act..

We are encouraged by the Council's actions and believe that the Council is making progress towards regional management for the Gulf. In regards to individual fishing quotas and inter-sector trading, we believe that both of these concepts are bad public policy for the recreational sector that cannot even be accomplished without first separating the sectors, a necessary step which has supposedly been tabled. If the commercial sector (who proclaims they barely get enough quota to supply the restaurants) is willing to lease quota to the charter for hire and head boats; they obviously have been misleading everyone. The red snapper stock in the Gulf is a public resource that they have been GIVEN exclusive rights to. The allocation for this program devised to benefit a small fraction of the overall fishing community in the Gulf should be based on the minimum amount possible to supply the restaurants. The commercial sector should not be gifted rights to a public resource only to have them sell or lease those fish back to the citizens of this country. RFA believes this approach is the absolute worst possible way to manage a public resource and fails to look out for the best interest of the public and the resource.

Sincerely,

Captain Tom Adams

Recreational Fishing Alliance Forgotten Coast Chapter
311 Nutmeg St, Port St Joe, FL 32456
www.mexicobeachcharters.com

Subject: FW: EFP SHAM
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 6:14 AM
From: tom adams <4tomadams@gmail.com>
To: Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>, Emily Muehlstein
<Emily.Muehlstein@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: EFP SHAM

Can you post this and get it to the council before they vote?

Thanks,
Capt. Tom Adams- Mexico Beach Charters
Recreational Fishing Alliance- Chairman- Forgotten Coast Chapter
311 Nutmeg St, Port St Joe, FL 32456
850 -381-1313 www.mexicobeachcharters.com <<http://www.mexicobeachcharters.com/>> or .net

From: tom adams [mailto:4tomadams@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 5:12 AM
To: 'info@gulfcouncil.org'
Subject: EFP SHAM

I object to any EFP that is not discussed for at least 6 months PUBLICLY and possibly even voted on by all Gulf Captains; as (if approved) would have such a large affect on the entire recreational TAC and especially charter for hire. I really can't believe it was introduced at such a late date with the possibility of being voted on at this meeting. We were only made aware of this EFP today.. Why are things always pushed through so fast and open for public comment only at the last second? It makes everyone think something underhanded is going on with the Council.

Another huge fault with this crazy idea-- to make a few people rich, is the part about allowing these head boats to swap shares back and forth between themselves and to borrow from their commercial IFQ. This with the possibility of even getting more from the commercial sector. And all this supposedly in the name of better data.

I think that the overwhelming majority will be against this -if given the chance to read about it and comment on it. This is obviously not a fair program for the Gulf Fishermen but a well thought out get rich quick scheme for a few. It reminds me of how the Red Snapper and grouper where divided up here in the Gulf. To allow individuals to own a share of Snapper or

grouper is not right as it does not allow any new participants and in my opinion should never have happened. No one should be able to own part of a natural resource but that is a different story altogether.

If anyone is considering letting this program go through for the sake of better data –get some snapper stamps or something and use that money to collect some data from the hundreds of thousands of recreational fishermen that participate in the red snapper fishery, not from 13 boats. Every time something gets pushed through the council for a quick vote it breeds ten times more distrust and makes it hard to believe that the Council is actually interested in Fisheries management. It makes it look like they have a few friends they are trying to help get rich.

Thanks,

Capt. Tom Adams- Mexico Beach Charters
Recreational Fishing Alliance- Chairman- Forgotten Coast Chapter
311 Nutmeg St, Port St Joe, FL 32456
850 -381-1313 www.mexicobeachcharters.com <[http://](http://www.mexicobeachcharters.com/)
www.mexicobeachcharters.com/> or .net

Subject: comments on Exempted Fishing Permits
Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 5:51 PM
From: Ed S <edschroeder1@comcast.net>
To: John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>
Cc: Myron Fischer <mfischer@wlf.la.gov>, Robin Riechers
<robin.riechers@tpwd.state.tx.us>, Chris Blankenship
<chris.blankenship@dcnr.alabama.gov>, Jessica McCawley
<jessica.mccawley@myfwc.com>, Patrick Riley <p.f.riley@comcast.net>,
Douglass Boyd <douglassboyd@yahoo.com>, <info@superstrikecharters.com>,
John Greene <intimidatorcharters@yahoo.com>, Kay Williams
<hkaywilliams@hotmail.com>, Bob Shipp <rshipp@jaguar1.usouthal.edu>,
Pamella Dana <fish@surelurecharters.com>, Bob Gill
<bgillbgill@embarqmail.com>
Conversation: comments on Exempted Fishing Permits

Dear Gulf Council:

As the owner of a long standing headboat business in Galveston, Texas I wish to express my opposition to the approval of any exempted fishing permits as proposed by Randy Boggs and the Gulf Headboat Cooperative. This is yet another attempt to move towards sector separation and a recreational IFQ. I am totally opposed to this concept.

This cooperative further illustrates the dubious recommendations put forth by the Ad Hoc Headboat Advisory panel as five members of that panel are also member of the Cooperative. They do not speak for the majority of headboat owners in the Gulf of Mexico.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ed Schroeder
Galveston Party Boats, Inc.
(409) 763-5423

Member of Ad hoc Headboat Advisory Panel

Subject: FW: Comments on Head Boat EFP
Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 12:06 PM
From: Trish Kennedy <trish.kennedy@gulfcouncil.org>
To: Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Comments on Head Boat EFP

From: Fischer, Myron [mailto:mfischer@wlf.la.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 11:51 AM
To: Trish Kennedy
Subject: Comments on Head Boat EFP

Please forward

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daryl Carpenter <reelscreamersft@aol.com>
Date: April 16, 2012 10:01:32 PM CDT
To: <mfischer@wlf.la.gov>
Subject: Comments on Head Boat EFP

Myron below are some concerns that I have with the Exempted Fishing Permit that some in the Head Boat sector have applied for. Please consider my comments and share with the rest of the Council Members prior to any vote that is taken.

My first concern and/or objection is that an EFP that if approved and that could have such a profound affect on the entire recreational TAC was introduced at such a late date with the possibility of being voted on at this meeting. We were only made aware of this EFP today and we feel that this application should at least be tabled until the next meeting so that we have time to digest the language and its implications.

As written there is language and/or the lack of that causes some concern for the local 6 pack fleet.

The first area of concern is the use of the head boat log books. We all know that the head boats have been keeping log books for several years. I am not very versed in exactly what they do but for the sake of argument, lets assume that the log books are accurate. They are asking for their documented share of fish that they caught in a single year, 2011 and one would have to assume that it will be expressed as a percentage of the Rec. TAC. The problem is that these 'hard numbers' if you will are going to be compared to and subtracted as a percentage of theoretical numbers produced by MRFSS and MRIPP. Anyone who has participated in the fishery for the last several years knows that we are harvesting exponentially more fish than what MRFSS or MRIPP represent yet the stock continues to rebound to the point of being a nuisance off of Louisiana's coast. Giving head boats their documented catch against these theoretical numbers is going to remove an exaggerated number of fish from the TAC that remains for the rest of the fleet.

Some parts for clarification In one part of the application, they agree to hold themselves to a 2 fish per person limit. There is no mention in the application if this applies to captain and crew. Another part of the application talks about keeping any obviously, mortally wounded fish to limit discards. The way it is written it almost sounds like an exception to the 2 fish per person limit.

Another concern is the application of a pilot that currently contains 13 boats but is open ended to allow up to 20 boats to enter. It seems to me that a pilot should be a pilot with fixed parameters. If 13 head boats are currently interested in participating in the pilot and if the council should decide to approve the pilot, it should be limited to those 13 boats who have agreed to sign on. We should not be looking at the threat of 7 additional boats entering the pilot and removing more TAC from the system until a decision is made to fully implement the concept of this pilot.

Perhaps the biggest concern is for the part of the application that would allow these head boats swap shares back and forth between themselves initially than later to borrow from their commercial IFQ for the dual permitted boats and allow for trade, purchase or otherwise barter additional IFQ from the commercial sector once their recreational IFQ has been consumed.

Many, including myself believe that the commercial sector has a major issue with the way that it has been allowed to work. To allow an individual to perpetually own a share of red snapper or any other fish is just not right and I do not believe that this was the initial intend of the managers when this system was approved. This is a system that allows people to own and sell the resource long after they have any interest in the resource and prohibits the entry of any new participants. This is certainly an argument that could dominate these comments so we will reserve for another day.

I do not believe that these boats should be allowed to intermingle rec. quota between themselves and they certainly should not be allowed to introduce commercial IFQ into the REC system. The ability to do this would create a large inequity in the charter boat sector and set a dangerous precedent as other management options are being considered for the entire charter boat sector. Any introduction of commercial sector IFQ into the rec sector should be done so as a more open reallocation to be shared by all who have an interest in the fishery.

This could be an interesting pilot but it will affect all charter boats operating in the Gulf. I believe that this matter should be tabled so that the language can be discussed further and concerns addressed.

Daryl Carpenter

Reel Screamers Guide Service

225-937-6288

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

Reelscreamersft@aol.com

Subject: FW: Exempted Fishing Permit
Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 12:06 PM
From: Trish Kennedy <trish.kennedy@gulfcouncil.org>
To: Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Exempted Fishing Permit

From: Fischer, Myron [mailto:mfischer@wlf.la.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 11:52 AM
To: Trish Kennedy
Subject: Exempted Fishing Permit

Please forward to council members

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Deep South Charters <deepsouthcharters@cox.net>
Date: April 16, 2012 10:58:34 PM CDT
To: mfischer@wlf.la.gov
Subject: Exempted Fishing Permit

Hey, I ask that you please share my concerns with the rest of the council.

I have just been made aware that there is a group of Headboat Captains who have applied for a Exempted Fishing Permit with the Gulf Council. I understand that that seems to be going through the system fairly fast. This could be an interesting pilot but I believe that we need more time to digest, comment on and tweak the language since this pilot will have a large affect on all of us.

--

KEEP THE SLACK OUT !

Capt Josh Howard

Deep South Charters

225-572-7408

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

April 16, 2012

Mr. Bob Gill
Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Dear Chairman Gill and Council Members:

As a private recreational fisherman, the health of Gulf fisheries are very important to me. Some of my best memories are on the water with my Dad going after kingfish, grouper, and red snapper. However, the current management trends have made it harder for me to carve out time to enjoy a day on the water. The current short seasons are not ideally suited for me to be able to plan a trip to the coast. I look at the current techniques being used to manage recreational species such as red snapper and grouper and know that they are not working for fishermen – private or for-hire. Something must change.

Sector separation could go a long way in helping to solve some of these problems and work to better optimize management for each individual sector. Although both private recreational anglers and for-hire/charter boats go after the same fish, their incentives to do so are entirely different. I, as a recreational angler, care about simply going fishing; while for-hire operators want consistency in order to build a plan that works for their businesses. Treating these two obviously different sectors as one hinders their ability to optimize their wants and needs and cuts down on the days I can enjoy fishing with my family.

Recently, there have been many calls for different types of management – tags, days at sea, weekends only. All of these are really just symptoms of folks wanting a fishery management plan that works best for their needs.

Regional fishery managers should step up and begin a process to explore these ideas for optimizing recreational fisheries management and improving opportunity to fish for the different groups that want to access the fishery in different ways while maintaining healthy catch levels and providing better, more timely data on what is caught. I urge the Council to move sector separation and other recreational optimization ideas into an amendment process. Allowing this to happen would be the first step to better management practices, data collection, and an overall healthier Gulf fishery.

Sincerely,

Jim Collins
1006 Rock Canyon Drive
Katy, Texas 77450

April 16, 2012

Mr. Bob Gill
Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

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1006 Rock Canyon Drive
Katy, Texas 77450

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

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Sincerely,

Noel Cruz
872 Hoene Road
Edinburg, Texas 78541

April 16, 2012

Mr. Bob Gill
Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Dear Chairman Gill and Council Members:

As a private recreational fisherman, the health of Gulf fisheries are very important to me. Some of my best memories are on the water with family going after red snapper and grouper. However, the current management trends have made it harder for me to carve out time to enjoy a day on the water. The current short seasons are not ideally suited for me to be able to plan a trip to the coast. I look at the current techniques being used to manage recreational species such as red snapper and grouper and know that they are not working for fishermen – private or for-hire. Something must change.

Sector separation could go a long way in helping to solve some of these problems and work to better optimize management for each individual sector. Although both private recreational anglers and for-hire/charter boats go after the same fish, their incentives to do so are entirely different. I, as a recreational angler, care about simply going fishing; while for-hire operators want consistency in order to build a plan that works for their businesses. Treating these two obviously different sectors as one hinders their ability to optimize their wants and needs and cuts down on the days I can enjoy fishing with my family.

Recently, there have been many calls for different types of management – tags, days at sea, weekends only. All of these are really just symptoms of folks wanting a fishery management plan that works best for their needs.

Regional fishery managers should step up and begin a process to explore these ideas for optimizing recreational fisheries management and improving opportunity to fish for the different groups that want to access the fishery in different ways while maintaining healthy catch levels and providing better, more timely data on what is caught. I urge the Council to move sector separation and other recreational optimization ideas into an amendment process. Allowing this to happen would be the first step to better management practices, data collection, and an overall healthier Gulf fishery.

Sincerely,

John D. Fry
8700 Starr Ranch, Apt 10304
Boerne, Texas 78015

April 16, 2012

Mr. Bob Gill
Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Dear Chairman Gill and Council Members:

As a private recreational fisherman, the health of Gulf fisheries are very important to me. Some of my best memories are on the water with my Dad going after gray triggerfish and red snapper. However, the current management trends have made it harder for me to carve out time to enjoy a day on the water. The current short seasons are not ideally suited for me to be able to plan a trip to the coast. I look at the current techniques being used to manage recreational species such as red snapper and grouper and know that they are not working for fishermen – private or for-hire. Something must change.

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Sincerely,

Manuel Garcia
1219 Kokopelli Drive
Edinburg, Texas 78542

April 16, 2012

Mr. Bob Gill
Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Dear Chairman Gill and Council Members:

As a private recreational fisherman, the health of Gulf fisheries are very important to me. Some of my best memories are on the water with family going after red snapper and amberjack. However, the current management trends have made it harder for me to carve out time to enjoy a day on the water. The current short seasons are not ideally suited for me to be able to plan a trip to the coast. I look at the current techniques being used to manage recreational species such as red snapper and grouper and know that they are not working for fishermen – private or for-hire. Something must change.

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Sincerely,

Joseph Daniel Haske
1902 W. 22nd St.
Mission, TX, 78572

April 16, 2012

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Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

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Sincerely,

Alejandro Huerta
3507 Samgar St Apt 2
Edinburg TX 78539

April 16, 2012

Mr. Bob Gill
Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Dear Chairman Gill and Council Members:

As a private recreational fisherman, the health of Gulf fisheries are very important to me. Some of my best memories are on the water with my Dad going after kingfish and red snapper. However, the current management trends have made it harder for me to carve out time to enjoy a day on the water. The current short seasons are not ideally suited for me to be able to plan a trip to the coast. I look at the current techniques being used to manage recreational species such as red snapper and grouper and know that they are not working for fishermen – private or for-hire. Something must change.

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Sincerely,

Andrew Husband
3424 Frankford Avenue Apt. #2A
Lubbock, Texas 79407

April 16, 2012

Mr. Bob Gill
Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Dear Chairman Gill and Council Members:

As a private recreational fisherman, the health of Gulf fisheries are very important to me. Some of my best memories are on the water with my Dad going after kingfish, grouper, and red snapper. However, the current management trends have made it harder for me to carve out time to enjoy a day on the water. The current short seasons are not ideally suited for me to be able to plan a trip to the coast. I look at the current techniques being used to manage recreational species such as red snapper and grouper and know that they are not working for fishermen – private or for-hire. Something must change.

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Sincerely,

Jim Collins
1006 Rock Canyon Drive
Katy, Texas 77450

April 16, 2012

Mr. Bob Gill
Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Dear Chairman Gill and Council Members:

As a private recreational fisherman, the health of Gulf fisheries are very important to me. Some of my best memories are on the water with my Dad going after dolphin and red snapper. However, the current management trends have made it harder for me to carve out time to enjoy a day on the water. The current short seasons are not ideally suited for me to be able to plan a trip to the coast. I look at the current techniques being used to manage recreational species such as red snapper and grouper and know that they are not working for fishermen – private or for-hire. Something must change.

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Sincerely,

Dan Wheat
3904 Toro Canyon
Austin, Texas 78746

Subject: FW: Opposition to Headboat Cooperative and or Sector Separation for the record of the Corpus Gulf Council Meeting Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 12:06 PM
From: Phyllis Miranda <Phyllis.Miranda@gulfcouncil.org>
To: Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Opposition to Headboat Cooperative and or Sector Separation for the record of the Corpus Gulf Council Meeting Public Comment

FYI

From: Jim Smarr [mailto:jimsmarr@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 11:03 AM
To: Robin Riechers; Trish Kennedy; Phyllis Miranda
Cc: Tom Hilton
Subject: Opposition to Headboat Cooperative and or Sector Separation for the record of the Corpus Gulf Council Meeting Public Comment

Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council

Gulf Council Chairman and Members,

The Recreational Fishing Alliance is opposed to any Pilot Gulf Headboat Cooperative plan. We have submitted affidavits from across the Gulf in opposition from the user groups holding permits. As a matter of record all but two Headboat operators in Texas voted no to any plan that would start them down a road to IFQ's or Sector Separation. The Council should take these affidavits as a resounding no. We are not with the belief that the proposed actions are legal without a true referendum of permit holders Gulf wide.

We will most certainly consider any implementation a violation of the Public Trust and respond accordingly.

Due to health issues I am unable to attend the Corpus Christi meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. Please share these thoughts for the record as our public comment.

Respectfully submitted for the record,

Jim Smarr

Recreational Fishing Alliance

jimsmarr@gmail.com

361-463-1558

Subject: FW: Sector Separation
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 2:11 PM
From: Emily Muehlstein <Emily.Muehlstein@gulfcouncil.org>
To: Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Sector Separation

----- Forwarded Message

From: "Shuler, Brandon" <brandon.shuler@ttu.edu>
Date: Wed, 18 Apr 2012 12:40:39 -0400
To: Trish Kennedy <trish.kennedy@gulfcouncil.org>, Emily Muehlstein
<emily.muehlstein@gulfcouncil.org>
Subject: Sector Separation

Dear Trish and Emily:

Please consider my support for the motion to allow for-hire captains to separate from the recreational sector. I worked as a charter boat captain for many years before returning to school to get my PhD. Now as a recreational fisherman living 800 miles from the Gulf, I only get to fish for snapper, my favorite fish, when I can get away from classroom duties and coordinate the kids' and wife's schedules. I can now sadly see the complaint the rec side has had for so long with our lack of access. I think if we do allow the for-hires to separate, we can grow a bigger access window for the recreational angler.

So please accept my recommendation and comment to support allowing the for-hire sector to separate from the recreational anglers.

Sincerely,
Brandon D. Shuler
Texas Tech University
Department of English
Office: 470
Twitter: @brandonshuler

www.brandonshuler.com
www.leadobieletters.com
Editor, www.newborder.org

----- End of Forwarded Message

Subject: FW: Sector Separation
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 12:33 PM
From: Emily Muehlstein <Emily.Muehlstein@gulfcouncil.org>
To: Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Sector Separation

----- Forwarded Message

From: Cecil Williams <cecil.b.williams9@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, 18 Apr 2012 12:30:17 -0400
To: Trish Kennedy <trish.kennedy@gulfcouncil.org>
Cc: Emily Muehlstein <emily.muehlstein@gulfcouncil.org>
Subject: Sector Separation

Dear Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Muehlstein,

We are utterly new at this activism stuff, but we want our voices heard. We are avid recreational fishermen and we have been following the Texas red snapper debate closely. We are willing to try anything that will make sure we can take our family's fishing when we want, how we want, and any time of the year. We did not know until last night who to send our letters to supporting letting the charter captains leave the recreational fisherman's designation. We highly support getting them out of the recreational designation. For no other simple reason, that they ain't recreational. they are making a living off our fish and taking away the days I can take my grandkids out.

So please consider the attached letters and the addresses for inclusion as our count of ten anglers.

Thank you for this consideration, and help us get our fish back.

Signed,
Cecil B. Williams
1000 West Port
Port Mansfield, Texas 78598

Dan Wheat
3904 Toro Canyon
Austin, Texas 78746
dwheat@barshop-oles.com

Chris McCombs
AMC Design Group
PO Box 18058
Austin, TX 78760

Chris@amcdesigngroup.com

Jim Collins
1006 Rock Canyon Drive
Katy, Texas 77450
(No E-mail)

Andrew Husband
3424 Frankford Avenue Apt. #2A
Lubbock, Texas 79407
andrew.husband@ttu.edu

John D. Fry

8700 Starr Ranch, Apt 10304
Boerne, Texas 78015
jf1431@txstate.edu

Joseph Daniel Haske
1902 W. 22nd St.
Mission, TX, 78572
jhaske4@yahoo.com

Noel Cruz
872 Hoene Road
Edinburg, Texas 78541
noelcruz92@gmail.com

Alejandro Huerta

3507 Samgar St Apt 2
Edinburg TX 78539
ascearce23@gmail.com

Manuel Garcia
1219 Kokopelli Drive
Edinburg, Texas 78542
mannygrc@hotmail.com

----- End of Forwarded Message

Subject: Gulf Coast Headboat Cooperative
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 12:43 PM
From: MIKE WILKES <mikee928@verizon.net>
Reply-To: "MIKE WILKES" <mikee928@verizon.net>
To: Pamela Dana <fish@surrelurecharters.com>, Bob Gill
<bgillbgill@embarqmail.com>, <lable@fsu.edu>, <jaguar1@usouthal.edu>, John
Greene <intimidatorcharters@yahoo.com>, Kay Williams
<hkaywilliams@hotmail.com>, Tom McIlwain <tom.mcilwain@usm.edu>, Harlon
Pearce <nolrah@aol.com>, <info@superstrikecharters.com>, Douglass Boyd
<douglassboyd@yahoo.com>, Patrick Riley <p.f.riley@comcast.net>,
<nick.wiley@myfwc.com>, Kevin Anson <Kevin.Anson@dcnr.alabama.gov>,
<corky.perret@dmr.state.ms.us>, Myron Fischer <mfischer@wlf.la.gov>,
<rpausina@wlf.la.gov>, Robin Riechers <robin.riechers@tpwd.state.tx.us>,
Roy Crabtree <roy.crabtree@noaa.gov>, John Milner
<GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>, <FRA@tampabay.rr.com>, Info
<Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Gulf Coast Headboat Cooperative

I have read the proposal form the Gulf Coast Headboat Cooperative and would like to recommend that this proposal be denied. After reviewing the suggestion I feel this is an effort to monopolize the fisheries for few select boats and thereby created a fish on my boat only industry. Just another way to keep the recreational fishermen from enjoying the Gulf Waters.

Michael A Wilkes
13909 Sommers Ave
hudson FL 34667
www.porthudsonfishingclub.com

Subject: Gulf Headboat Catch Share EFT
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 9:51 AM
From: Joan Paprocki <jmpaprocki@gmail.com>
To: Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Gulf Headboat Catch Share EFT

We own two headboats in Panama City Beach, FL, the Jubilee and the Treasure Island, and we are opposed to the proposed headboat catch share eft. This will give an unfair advantage to the headboats that are chosen to participate. Competition is hard enough in these tough economic times and this would be totally unfair to other headboats and for-hire charterboats.

Thank you.

Charlie & Joan Paprocki

Subject: Gulf Headboat Cooperative proposal
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 12:37 PM
From: Robert Starek <capnfea@yahoo.com>
To: John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Gulf Headboat Cooperative proposal

Sir/Ma'am,

I strongly oppose the Exempted Fishing Permit submitted by the Gulf Headboat Cooperative (Cooperative).

The Gulf of Mexico fishery resource belongs to the the general public and should not be allocated to any specific group with special privileges granted to that group. Since this Cooperative purports to service the the recreational fisherman this cooperative should be subject to the exact same rules and regulations every other recreational fisherman must abide by - especially management closure of the season.

Further, I disagree with the benefit of the stated goals of the Headboat project, in particular goal 2. I fail to see how this meager data collection effort can effectively be extrapolated to assess the impact of the entire recreational fishing group on the overall Gulf of Mexico fishery.

Robert Starek
Gulf Breeze, FL

Subject: Head boat Cooperative program
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 9:09 AM
From: misskelley29@aol.com
To: Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Head boat Cooperative program

Miss Kelley Charters
Benjamin Kelley
3904 West 26th. Court
Panama City, FL 32405

I have been in the charter red snapper fishery for the last 29 years. I am very very opposed to this Heat boat cooperative. I see where one greedy group of party boat owners come together like the commercial fishermen did and screw the rest of the charter and head boats out of the red snapper quota. I have stood around and watched the NMFS do a lot of stupid stuff but this is the most farfetched idea to date. I will hire my own lawyers and fight this if it is passed.

DO NOT GIVE A SMALL GROUP SPECIAL RIGHTS. IT IS NOT AMERICAN.

Capt. Benjamin Kelley, Life time boat captain

Subject: Head Boat Red Snapper & Gag Grouper Pilot Program.
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 7:29 AM
From: Michael Graef <michaelgraef@cox.net>
To: Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Head Boat Red Snapper & Gag Grouper Pilot Program.

To Gulf Council,
I have just finished reading the Head boat Cooperative goals and initiatives for their request to participate in a 2 year pilot program to catch and keep Red Snapper as well as Gag Grouper year around I must admit I'm impressed but you could add Charter Boat in any paragraph and we are experiencing the exact same plight as the Head Boat Operators. I'm a 6 pack Charter Boat owner in Destin Florida. My customers are not included in this plan. WHY! Once again only a few fishermen will benefit from these pilot programs. Hmm socio economic impact? Before the first fish is caught, the party boats are going to have more customers knowing they can keep Snappers and Groupers while the rest of the Charter For Hire industry tries to explain to their customers about another unfair NMFS program not to mention lost trips due to the fact we can not keep Red Snapper or Grouper year around when the party boat next to us can! Impact is only beneficial for the lucky participants in this pilot program! This entire program is against what national standard 4 states, no user group shall have an unfair advantage over another.
I urge all council members to vote NO on this issue!
Thank You,
Capt. Mike Graef
Charter Boat Huntress
Destin, FL

Subject: headboat coop
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 9:11 AM
From: Mike Nugent <cappy78335@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: "mike nugent" <cappy78335@yahoo.com>
To: Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: headboat coop

As it is currently constructed and proposed, I am opposed to the headboat cooperative plan. Mike Nugent
Box 321 Aransas Pass, Tx 78335 361 779 8389

Subject: Headboat Co-op
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 6:09 AM
From: Tom Becker <tdchart@bellsouth.net>
To: Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Headboat Co-op

Council members,

The five (5) Mississippi head boats are dead against any type of a program that will separate their boats from the rest of the captains who also are trying to make a living on the water.

Sector separation has hurt the economy wherever it has been tried and now the Headboat Co-op is trying to damage the economy in the Gulf. This using commercial shares for the recreational sector is the biggest joke I have ever heard of and we are dead against that also. Use the quote of the recreational sector and quite trying to kill the rest of us.

I could go on and on about this cry baby Co-op but you see our point.

Miss Hospitality
SilverDollar III
Happy Hooker
Keesler Dolphin
Skipper

Capt Tom Becker, President
Mississippi Charter Boat Captains Association

Subject: Headboat cooperative
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 11:09 AM
From: Michael Salley <sandbar3@att.net>
To: Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Headboat cooperative

This is mike Salley of the charter boat sure shot.. Owner/Operator... I do not agree with the Headboat cooperative this will push fisherman against fisherman all permit holders should have an equal share of any program that could benefit all permit holders.. Thanks. Mike Salley

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Headboat proposal
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 8:43 AM
From: Robbie Fuller <cfcap10@gmail.com>
To: Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Headboat proposal

To Whom it may concern,

I am a lifelong fisherman in the panhandle of Florida, specifically in Panama City.

I am opposed to the headboat owners wanting to separate my recreational fish from theirs and to then be able to "sale" fish from one to the other of quotas already in effect.

Please place my feelings in the pile that would be voting NO on any more restrictions on any sector, group or fleet until we get more and better science and information about the fish and fisheries we are trying to "save" and regulate with rule upon rule, order upon order, and continued splitting of the pie.

NO NEW MANDATES PLEASE!

Signed by Retired Captain and current rec fisherman,
Robbie Fuller

Subject: Council Comments
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 11:03 AM
From: Mike Rowell <mike@captainmikesfishing.com>
To: John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Council Comments

Deep Sea Fishing
Aboard The
Charter Boat Annie Girl
We Specialize in a Good Time!

Captain Mike Rowell
West Spruce Av.
Phone: 251-981-2081
Alabama 36535
www.captainmikesfishing.com <[http://www.captainmikesfishing.com/
%20%20http://www.captainmikesfishing.com/](http://www.captainmikesfishing.com/%20%20http://www.captainmikesfishing.com/)>

204

Foley

Council Members

With all due respect to everyone involved in our fisheries management process I pass along my comments to you.

I am truly sad to say I have just about lost any hope to make a difference in this management process. Until a couple of years ago, I was very involved in our fishing association, I served on of AP panels, I made a run at a seat on the council and I was very enthusiastic about being part of the mechanism that would shape of fisheries for the future.

The bottom line is, what I see as a fisherman and what this management plan sees, is two different things. It just doesn't make since to me. For instance Red Snapper. I know it has been said over and again but there are so many Red Snapper now that other species are suffering. And now we are wasting the Snapper that we have sacrificed and worked so hard to protect. Where I fish, if you put bait on a hook and drop it in the water anywhere near any structure in 20 to 600 feet of water, you will catch Red Snapper 10 to 1 over any other species. But, except for 40 days of the year, we have to throw these fish back and watch some of them float away dead. No matter how hard we try, you can not avoid Red Snapper. It is a sin to waste these fish like this.

We have been told that all of these sacrifices were going to pay off some day with longer seasons and larger bag limits. Just the opposite has happened.

This is one example of why I have lost my enthusiasm with the present management system. It has made me bitter and I have resorted to making unprofessional sarcastic remarks. If I have personally offended any of you, I apologize.

I feel that this process is out of control. Its too political, too complicated, and too far removed from reality. Have you ever heard the comment, "He is educated beyond his intelligence"? That is how I feel about our federal fisheries management.

Head Boat Exempt Permit

I oppose the new head boat cooperatives request for an exempted fishing permit. I don't believe we need a pilot program to see if this idea will work. You can do the math to determine the fish numbers and we all know the VMS and other accounting measures work. How can anyone think it would be fair to let a few people have an exempt fishing permit. With the information I have with regard to this issue, I believe we can figure out if it will work or not without a pilot program.

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

Thank you.
Captain Mike Rowell

For a Good Time Call
251-981-2081

Error! Hyperlink reference not valid. <<http://www.captainmikesfishing.com>
%20/%20<http://www.captainmikesfishing.com/>>

We Specialize in a Good Time!

'Government is like a baby:
An alimentary canal with a
big appetite at one end and
no sense of responsibility
at the other'
- Ronald Reagan

Subject: Oppose the proposed Exempted Fishing Permit for the Gulf Headboat Cooperative

Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 1:16 PM

From: Dr. Emery "Mike" Cole <pakdoc@aol.com>

To: Pamela Dana <fish@surelurecharters.com>, Bob Gill <bgillbgill@embarqmail.com>, <lable@fsu.edu>, <jaguar1@usouthal.edu>, John Greene <intimidatorcharters@yahoo.com>, Kay Williams <hkaywilliams@hotmail.com>, Tom McIlwain <tom.mcilwain@usm.edu>, Harlon Pearce <nolrah@aol.com>, <info@superstrikecharters.com>, Douglass Boyd <douglassboyd@yahoo.com>, Patrick Riley <p.f.riley@comcast.net>, <nick.wiley@myfwc.com>, Kevin Anson <Kevin.Anon@dcnr.alabama.gov>, <corky.perret@dmr.state.ms.us>, Myron Fischer <mfischer@wlf.la.gov>, <rpausina@wlf.la.gov>, Robin Riechers <robin.riechers@tpwd.state.tx.us>, Roy Crabtree <roy.crabtree@noaa.gov>, John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>, <FRA@tampabay.rr.com>, Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>

Conversation: Oppose the proposed Exempted Fishing Permit for the Gulf Headboat Cooperative

I oppose the proposed Exempted Fishing Permit for the Gulf Headboat Cooperative.

It is unacceptable to give any of the recreational quota to any specific boat owners.

It is also ABSOLUTELY unacceptable to allow recreational fishing to occur using any of the commercial allocation.

A recreational angler fishes for recreational fish, be it from land or any boat, regardless of that boat's ownership.

For-hire captains take recreational anglers fishing.

There is absolutely no right of ownership of our recreational resource based on ownership.

These Exempted Fishing Permits should be for science, not for this politically motivated program which, by the way, is opposed by Congress. Less than 4% of all Gulf recreational trips are taken on for-hire boats.

FIX THE DATA SYSTEM.

Cordially,

Mike Cole

[www.SUMITONDENTAL.com](http://www.sumitondental.com/) <<http://www.sumitondental.com/>>

Emery "Mike" Cole, II, DMD, FAGD, BS, PC

Fellow, Academy General Dentistry; Member ADA

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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: <no subject>

Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 12:53 PM

From: chuck weddel <cweddel@hotmail.com>

To: Pamela Dana <fish@surelurecharters.com>, Bob Gill <bgillbgill@embarqmail.com>, <lable@fsu.edu>, <jaguar1@usouthal.edu>, John Greene <intimidatorcharters@yahoo.com>, Kay Williams <hkaywilliams@hotmail.com>, Tom McIlwain <tom.mcilwain@usm.edu>, Harlon Pearce <nolrah@aol.com>, <info@superstrikecharters.com>, Douglass Boyd <douglassboyd@yahoo.com>, Patrick Riley <p.f.riley@comcast.net>, <nick.wiley@myfwc.com>, Kevin Anson <Kevin.Anon@dcnr.alabama.gov>, <corky.perret@dmr.state.ms.us>, Myron Fischer <mfischer@wlf.la.gov>, <rpausina@wlf.la.gov>, Robin Riechers <robin.riechers@tpwd.state.tx.us>, Roy Crabtree <roy.crabtree@noaa.gov>, John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>, Denny Fishing Rights Alliance <fra@tampabay.rr.com>, Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>

Dear sirs:

I oppose the proposed Exempted Fishing Permit for the Gulf Headboat Cooperative.

I feel strongly that it is unacceptable to give any of the recreational quota to any specific boat owners.

It is also ABSOLUTELY unacceptable to allow recreational fishing to occur using any of the commercial allocation.

A recreational angler fishes for recreational fish. They may fish from land or any boat, regardless of that boat's ownership.

There is absolutely no right of ownership of our recreational resource based on ownership.

For-hire captains take recreational anglers fishing.

These Exempted Fishing Permits should be used ONLY for science, not for this politically motivated program which, by the way, is opposed by Congress.

Less than 4% of all Gulf recreational trips are taken on for-hire boats.

Please - fix the Data used in your system!

Chuck Weddel

813-961-2600

5008 W Linebaugh Ave #35

Tampa, FL 33624

Subject: FW: Public comment
Date: Monday, April 23, 2012 7:45 AM
From: Trish Kennedy <trish.kennedy@gulfcouncil.org>
To: Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Public comment

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

From: Bill Staff [mailto:captainbill@seaspraycharterfishing.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 4:36 PM
To: Trish Kennedy
Subject: Public comment

Support pilot programs that could lead the charter boats into a flexible fishery management fishery!

Would like to keep amberjack size limit the same to keep quota from being caught faster. Keep aj closed while snapper season is open. We need jacks in the fall!

Would like to see a smaller bag limit on trigger to keep season open year round!

Thanks

Bill Staff
2519783631

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Exempted Fishing Permit by GHC
Date: Saturday, April 21, 2012 1:51 PM
From: d.j. polk <shefishes210@gmail.com>
To: Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: Exempted Fishing Permit by GHC

Sir/Ma'am,

I strongly oppose the Exempted Fishing Permit submitted by the Gulf Headboat Cooperative (Cooperative).

The Gulf of Mexico fishery resource belongs to the the general public and should not be allocated to any specific group with special privileges granted to that group. Since this Cooperative purports to service the the recreational fisherman this cooperative should be subject to the exact same rules and regulations every other recreational fisherman must abide by - especially management closure of the season.

Further, I disagree with the benefit of the stated goals of the Headboat project, in particular goal 2. I fail to see how this meager data collection effort can effectively be extrapolated to assess the impact of the entire recreational fishing group on the overall Gulf of Mexico fishery.

Subject: Headboat Co-Operative

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2012 6:43 PM

From: Capt. J <gulf_rider@hotmail.com>

To: Pamela Dana <fish@surelurecharters.com>, Bob Gill <bgillbgill@embarqmail.com>, <lable@fsu.edu>, <jaguar1@usouthal.edu>, John Greene <intimidatorcharters@yahoo.com>, Kay Williams <hkaywilliams@hotmail.com>, Tom McIlwain <tom.mcilwain@usm.edu>, Harlon Pearce <nolrah@aol.com>, <info@superstrikecharters.com>, Douglass Boyd <douglassboyd@yahoo.com>, Patrick Riley <p.f.riley@comcast.net>, <nick.wiley@myfwc.com>, Kevin Anson <Kevin.Anon@dcnr.alabama.gov>, <corky.perret@dmr.state.ms.us>, Myron Fischer <mfischer@wlf.la.gov>, <rpausina@wlf.la.gov>, Robin Riechers <robin.riechers@tpwd.state.tx.us>, Roy Crabtree <roy.crabtree@noaa.gov>, John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>, <fra@tampabay.rr.com>, Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>

Conversation: Headboat Co-Operative

Sirs and Madams,

I've not read alot about this "headboat co-operative" , but as I understand it, these operators are going to be able to catch snapper and grouper year-round.

Do you have any idea what this would mean to headboat/charterboat operators that were not "blessed" with this ability? Do you care? It's difficult enough to make ends meet in this economy and \$4.00 per gallon fuel without haveing to compete against an operation that offers it's customers year round Red Snapper and Grouper fishing? How could you allow this? The foolish regulations already in place have made this business a nightmare.

I'll promise a legal challenge to this.

Captain James G. Stone
Charter Boat "Emerald Coast"
Reef and Pelagic permitted since 1997

Subject: I oppose the proposed Exempted Fishing Permit

Date: Friday, April 20, 2012 4:12 PM

From: Christopher Daschke <christopher.daschke@IPAPER.com>

To: Pamela Dana <fish@surelurecharters.com>, Bob Gill <bgillbgill@embarqmail.com>, <lable@fsu.edu>, <jaguar1@usouthal.edu>, John Greene <intimidatorcharters@yahoo.com>, Kay Williams <hkaywilliams@hotmail.com>, Tom McIlwain <tom.mcilwain@usm.edu>, Harlon Pearce <nolrah@aol.com>, <info@superstrikecharters.com>, Douglass Boyd <douglassboyd@yahoo.com>, Patrick Riley <p.f.riley@comcast.net>, <nick.wiley@myfwc.com>, Kevin Anson <Kevin.Anon@dcnr.alabama.gov>, <corky.perret@dmr.state.ms.us>, Myron Fischer <mfischer@wlf.la.gov>, <rpausina@wlf.la.gov>, Robin Riechers <robin.riechers@tpwd.state.tx.us>, Roy Crabtree <roy.crabtree@noaa.gov>, John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>, <FRA@tampabay.rr.com>, Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>

Conversation: I oppose the proposed Exempted Fishing Permit

I oppose the proposed Exempted Fishing Permit for the Gulf Head boat Cooperative.

It is unacceptable to give any of the recreational quota to any specific boat owners. It is also ABSOLUTELY unacceptable to allow recreational fishing to occur using any of the commercial allocation. A recreational angler fishes for recreational fish, be it from land or any boat, regardless of that boat's ownership. For-hire captains take recreational anglers fishing. There is absolutely no right of ownership of our recreational resource based on ownership.

These Exempted Fishing Permits should be for science, not for this politically motivated program which, by the way, is opposed by Congress. Less than 4% of all Gulf recreational trips are taken on for-hire boats. FIX THE DATA SYSTEM.

Respectfully,
Chris Daschke

Subject: I oppose the proposed Exempted Fishing Permit

Date: Friday, April 20, 2012 4:12 PM

From: Christopher Daschke <christopher.daschke@IPAPER.com>

To: Pamela Dana <fish@surelurecharters.com>, Bob Gill <bgillbgill@embarqmail.com>, <lable@fsu.edu>, <jaguar1@usouthal.edu>, John Greene <intimidatorcharters@yahoo.com>, Kay Williams <hkaywilliams@hotmail.com>, Tom McIlwain <tom.mcilwain@usm.edu>, Harlon Pearce <nolrah@aol.com>, <info@superstrikecharters.com>, Douglass Boyd <douglassboyd@yahoo.com>, Patrick Riley <p.f.riley@comcast.net>, <nick.wiley@myfwc.com>, Kevin Anson <Kevin.Anon@dcnr.alabama.gov>, <corky.perret@dmr.state.ms.us>, Myron Fischer <mfischer@wlf.la.gov>, <rpausina@wlf.la.gov>, Robin Riechers <robin.riechers@tpwd.state.tx.us>, Roy Crabtree <roy.crabtree@noaa.gov>, John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>, <FRA@tampabay.rr.com>, Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>

Conversation: I oppose the proposed Exempted Fishing Permit

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Respectfully,
Chris Daschke

On Jun 5, 2012, at 20:15, "ben fairey"
<benfairey@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Dr. Bartone,

I hope things are well with you and all the council staff. Our season is in full swing so being able to attend the June council meeting is doubtful. I would like to make a couple of comments and if you don't mind, pass them along to the council members.

The recent announcement of the closure of gray Triggerfish is another example why we need to explore new FMP's. I support Pilot programs for the CFH and Headboat sectors. I encourage the council to move forward with these pilot programs and allow those of us who voluntarily want to participate be able to try one of these pilots.

The Closure of Gag, Amberjack and gray triggerfish all at one time is a tough situation for CFH vessels. The ability to be able to sell longer trips is very tough. I support looking at lowering the daily bag limits on the fish that are in the aggregate. I would rather have smaller bag limits instead of closed seasons. Closed seasons lead to multitude of issues including dead discards and effort shift.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to voice my concern.

Kind Regards,
Capt. Ben Fairey
Charterboat Necessity
Orange Beach. Alabama



CITY OF CLEARWATER

CLEARWATER MUNICIPAL MARINA, 25 CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33767

TELEPHONE (727) 462-6954 FAX (727) 462-6957

MARINE & AVIATION DEPARTMENT

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council:

May 10, 2012

The Clearwater Marine & Aviation Department, under the direction of the City of Clearwater City government, operates the largest charter fishing fleet on the West Coast of Florida. The Clearwater Municipal Marina supports twenty (20) charter for hire vessels, of which four are federally inspected headboats operating under two separate businesses.

We have been witness to the struggle that these businesses have been under with shorter and sometimes unpredictable season lengths, accompanied by an uncertain market. The tourist industry, subject to not only the economy but weather, drives business in our area. It helps the restaurants, hotels, souvenir shops and virtually all other local businesses. Tourists and local residents come to our marina for several reasons, but fishing is number one for generations of families over the past 60+ years.

We are aware that a number of our fishermen are working closely with their regional fisheries council to design new management options for the "Charter for Hire" businesses. We have met with them and discussed solutions, such as the Headboat Cooperative Pilot and other programs which will help address data collection challenges, help reduce bycatch and help charterboat fishermen have access to the Gulf of Mexico year round. We fully support these businesses in their effort to create a predictable, balanced and well managed fishery that will benefit them, sustain the fishing stock and the means in which they market their business. The access to the Gulf Fishery, for many tourists and economy driven "staycation" fishermen relies heavily on our Charter for Hire Fleet.

To sustain the fisheries, fuel tourism and balance the access to the local Gulf fisheries, the City of Clearwater Marine and Aviation Department fully supports the effort these business owners are taking in creating a headboat Cooperative Pilot Program that will help them bring accountability and sustainability to their industry.

Clearwater Florida's commitment to the fishing public is evident by our free fishing piers, multiple launch ramps, public and private marinas and our fleet of professional charter fishermen. We will continue to support the growth of fishing and family recreation for our residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William D. Morris".

William D. Morris, Director
Marine & Aviation Dept.

william.morris@myclearwater.com



Subject: My comments For any exempted permits
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2013 5:58 PM
From: tom adams <4tomadams@gmail.com>
To: <0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov>, Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>
Conversation: My comments For any exempted permits

We keep going to meetings telling you all this is stupid, you cannot do this—it is not fair. Yet several months later you bring it back up. Just like Sector separation and recreational catch shares. Is everyone at NOAA being paid by the EDF and Pew and others to keep pushing these ideas to privatize our fisheries? This is the stupidest idea, you(NOAA), and the Gulf Council for that matter-- have come up with yet. I or we can only hope for Magnuson reform and a good housecleaning of NOAA. PS. Get the NCEO's out of the fisheries. Go save a Panda or a Baboon—something that is actually endangered. If this is a good idea let all F/V CFH and headboats try it for a year, or let us try it for 5 years ; we may be able to dig out from the hole you (noaa) have put us in financially. But to let only a few would be just ANOTHER SNAFU by NOAA.

*Thanks,
Capt. Tom Adams- Mexico Beach Charters
Recreational Fishing Alliance- Chairman- Forgotten Coast Chapter
311 Nutmeg St, Port St Joe, Fl 32456
850 -381-1313 www.mexicobeachcharters.com <http://
www.mexicobeachcharters.com/> or .net*