

Jessica Matos

From: Carrie Simmons
Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:11 AM
To: Emily Muehlstein; Jessica Matos
Cc: John Froeschke; Ryan Rindone
Subject: FW: ssc meet 10-4-23

Importance: High

Emily – please handle for me.

From: bobzales2@gmail.com <bobzales2@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 10:42 AM
To: Carrie Simmons <carrie.simmons@gulfcouncil.org>
Subject: ssc meet 10-4-23
Importance: High

Carrie,

I am planning to be on the ssc webinar tomorrow but due to a personal family matter may miss the last hour and public testimony. I have some concerns with the info in the presentation and feel the ssc should be aware. As you know we made the request for the fes to be reviewed again by the ssc and appreciate y'all setting this up. Please provide my comments to the ssc.

Our key concern is for the continued use of the fes in stock assessments until all of the data is fully vetted and there is a clear understanding how it will affect historical pri rec vessel and shore mode landings. This is critical in relation to setting allocations among sectors and mainly as determining stock biomass and status. I am very concerned about the statement in the presentation that points out the results of all the studies and calibrations of the new data during '24 and '25 will not allow the implementation of an "improved" fes design until 2026 at the earliest. This is 3 years from now, maybe.

The continued use of the flawed fes data in stock assessments has severe adverse effects on the stock status and users of the fisheries. The negative social and economic impacts placed on the users, along with an unknown status of the stocks, has and will continue to cause much economic and social harm to users and consumers. As we strongly suggested at the last council meeting, the use of fes as best available science when we all now know it is not the BAS, is simply wrong. The continued use of this flawed data in stock assessments for at least the next 3 years will cause unrecoverable harm to the stocks, users, and consumers. We strongly encourage the ssc and council to pause the use of fes until the data has been fully vetted and more confidence in the data is understood.

Thanks,

Capt Bob Zales, II

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"The two most important days in your life are the

day you were born and the day you find out why.”

Mark Twain