

Subject: FW: Fishin!

Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:59:11 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Charlene Ponce

To: Charlene Ponce

From: <benfairey@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 30, 2013 at 10:54 AM

Subject: Fishin!

To: roy.crabtree@noaa.gov, John R Greene <intimidatorcharters@yahoo.com>

To The Gulf Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the serious issues facing our fishing industry and recreational anglers. This previous fishing season again proved that we need a flexible , accountable fisheries management program. Lost days to weather, fishing in undesirable conditions, uncertainty of length of season all are indications of a status quo system that doesn't best serve the fishing community. Both CFH and recreational fisherman deserve better. I feel it's time for the council to move forward and make tough decisions based on facts not politics. The CFH needs it own fisheries management system. Private recs need the same. Let's move forward on volunteer pilot programs that will give the council the information it needs to make sound decisions. A fair allocation to all three sectors with flexibility built in. This can has been kicked down the road enough. The CFH industry has sacrificed for a long time to help rebuild our fisheries. The commercial sector has shown that flexible , accountable FMP' s work!

Respectfully,
Capt. Ben Fairey

Sent from my iPad

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Dr. Roy Crabtree
Regional Administrator
Southeast Regional Office
NOAA Fisheries

Subject: FW: Separate sector public comment

Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:59:44 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Charlene Ponce

To: Charlene Ponce

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

From: **Bill Staff** <captainbill@seaspraycharterfishing.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 30, 2013 at 9:32 AM

Subject: Separate sector public comment

To: Johnni G <fishorangebeach@gmail.com>, Roy Crabtree <roy.crabtree@noaa.gov>, Andy Strelcheck <Andy.strelcheck@noaa.gov>, Ben <benfairey@gmail.com>, Goober <GJabd@aol.com>

Bill Staff

Orange Beach

Sea Spray Charters

Thanks for opportunity to speak!

Please make sure other council members receive.

I am unable to attend meeting! I am very passionate about my industry obtaining a flexible management plan!

We are sick and tired of riding this roller coaster!

We tell groups they have snapper on there dates booked!

They take vacation, book rooms and then with a decision from wishy washy feds we jerk the rug out from under them! It's a joke the way the charter for hire has begged for some traction on our on plan and can't receive any help!

Even if plan starts us at bottom we want it! Something to hang our hat on! I think a voluntary sector separation with a 2 year pilot program would give the fisherman wanting change a great place to start! It would allow real time data collection also! We want to and must become accountable and the purely recreational too! I believe fish tags for purely recreational would be a start!

I still believe the commercial IFQ holders should be capped at 5 million with no buffer and extra fish should be awarded to groups who are 100 per cent accountable!

With the price of snapper falling and still lots of IFQ left maybe all the markets that we have been hearing about aren't as strong as testimony lead us to believe!

Again it's past time for the CFH to get its on plan and we are begging for your help to get us there!

Thanks

Bill Staff

Just ended 33rd charter season looking forward to next year!!

Sent from my iPhone

--

Dr. Roy Crabtree

Regional Administrator

Southeast Regional Office

NOAA Fisheries



Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council Written Comment Aug. 28, 2013 Meeting

My name is Tracy Redding and I am the President of AAA Charters Inc. a charter booking service for for-hire fishing and sightseeing charters along the Alabama Gulf Coast. I have been operating this small business for a decade.

Although I have curtailed traveling to each of the Gulf Council meetings, I continue to listen to the meeting on the web link provided. I am extremely grateful this opportunity is provided for those that wish to continue to participate in Council proceedings; but are unable to travel across the Gulf Coast, at our own expense, throughout the year. I have also found the Gulf Council use of social media quite effective and informative. I still remain hopeful that improvements can be made to the management of the for-fire recreational fishery that can return the charter industry to a viable business. If drastic improvements are not made within the next 2 years, our future is doomed.

I offer a few specific recommendations to actions currently under consideration by the Gulf Council.

- Amendment 39 Regional Management. I fully support moving forward with Regional Management for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico dividing the Gulf into 5 regions corresponding with State Lines and the EEZ south of these zones (for recreational anglers ONLY, commercial fishery should remain in the federal IFQ system).
- Amendment 39 Allocation of fishing quotas, Action 3, Alternative 2 Option D using 50% in put from historical landings from 1986-2012 and 50% input from 2006-2012 PLUS eliminate both of the years 2006 and 2010 from the equations.
- Provide the Accountability Measure of requiring a payback during the following season from any region that exceeds the quota.
- If any or some of the Gulf States are not yet prepared to manage their region, they should remain in the “default” federal season until they are prepared and/or willing to proceed with managing their region. The lack of resources and/or interest of a Gulf State should not hold back those states that are ready to try something new. I have FULL confidence in the abilities of our leadership within the Alabama Department of Natural Resources to responsibly meet the challenge of managing the waters off

the Alabama shores. I believe our state is willing and able to utilize electronic logbooks within the CFH industry immediately improving data collection within a significant portion of our recreational anglers. Alabama has a long history in investing in our marine resources by building a world class reef zone, and I believe Alabama can provide the resources necessary to immediately manage these fisheries. Alabama has a strong reputation for protecting the natural resources with which we are blessed and I hope this authority is expanded to manage the red snapper fishery off our shores.

- EFP for the Head boat Charter pilot program. It is absolutely essential that the quota set aside for this program is deducted off the top of the recreational fishing quotas (if regional management is in place, the quota should come off the top of that state's quota, or if default state, the federal EEZ quota.) I believe all other current EFP come off the top. This program should not be an exception. As Roy Crabtree testified this week, to not take the quota off the top would COMPLETELY undermine the entire project.
- I support maintaining the provisions in 30B preventing federally permitted charter boats fishing from states with federally non-compliant fishing regulations from fishing both the federal season in the EEZ and fishing in state waters during these expanded seasons. I heard quite a bit of moaning from TX and FL fishermen about how unfair this provision seems to them; but following their state's decision to expand fishing seasons within their state waters, anglers from Alabama directly lost fishing days this year. This provision needs to stay in place.
- I am opposed to any reallocation of red snapper quota! I am a recreational angler, I make my living in the charter boat industry, and I am a consumer of Gulf Seafood. The availability of fresh, Gulf caught seafood is also crucial to our communities. Our chefs need to be able to depend on yearlong access to reef fish. I don't come to NOLA to eat catfish from Asia. Our commercial fishermen have developed an effective management program that has maximized their profits and they have never exceeded the commercial quota for red snapper, a claim recreational anglers can't even dream of in the near future. Any reallocation from the commercial sector to the recreational anglers undermines the accomplishments achieved by commercial fishermen. In my option, the commercial sector has earned the bump in quota. I hope the charter for hire industry can follow in the commercial fisherman's tracks.

Thank you for considering my input.

Tracy Redding

8/22/2013

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

Dear Gulf Council Members,

Please let me take this time to give you input from The Recreational Fishing Alliance - Florida West Coast on the Alabama Exempted Fishing Permit Application Charter For Hire Pilot Project.

As you have heard testimony over the last few years we stand against any form of Sector Separation. With this plan removing quota from the recreational sector to give to a select group of Charter For-Hire clearly shows that this project is using Sector Separation to reach it's goals. With the Gulf Council putting Sector Separation discussion on hold it should not be allowed to be used in this Pilot Project.

As you read through this document you will see it is based on Regional Management being in place and asks for the permit for the years 2014-15. With Regional management not being approved and not having a start time for Regional Management to start for the states should be reason for this EFP not to be approved.

When you look into the goals of this project you will see several that raise questions. This plan says it will test a new electronic data collection method. This collection method is the ISNAPPER program and has been around for a few years now with a pilot program already taking place in the northern Gulf with CFH boats. Why duplicate a pilot program that is already taking place ?

The goal states " Test the ability of regional management to see if this is a feasible plan for the state to control their regional fisheries." If regional management was just for CFH boats this would show if it is a feasible plan or not but it's not just CFH boats you have to have data off of the private boats that will also be in regional management to see what the outcome of this plan would be.

This project also states that either pounds or number of fish could be used to distribute quota to each boat in the fleet. It would take the SSC to change the pounds to number of fish and at the last meeting this came up and they could not do it at this time. With the quota being distributed in pounds they show no means of weighing the fish. What kind of scales will be used and will fish be weighed alive or at dock?

This plan asks for flexibility to add new participants after the first year. This would add a large bias into the data and make it very hard to compare the 2 years of data.

This plan also says it will cause less conflict between sectors. We do not understand how that statement could be true. With the CFH boats carrying recreational fishermen, the private boat fishermen would up in arms because they can't fish other than in the set season.

With all the points we have made out of this plan we do not believe it should move forward.

Buddy Bradham
Recreational Fishing Alliance - Florida West Coast
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St. Petersburg, FL 33714
727-458-1192

