
Subject: FW: King Mackerel Gillnet Fishery

From: Bill Kelly [<mailto:fkcf1@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 20, 2014 4:07 PM

To: Pamela Dana; John Sanchez; Doug Gregory; Ryan Rindone; Steve Branstetter; Roy Crabtree; Kevin Anson

Subject: King Mackerel Gillnet Fishery

Pam & All Concerned:

As some of you know, my wife Barbara developed complications from recent colon surgery and is hospitalized while undergoing treatment. The good news is she is responding well to the treatments and hopefully will be released in the next day or two. For that reason, I will not be attending the GMFMC meeting to discuss industry proposed management measures for the King Mackerel Gillnet Fishery in the Southern Sub-Zone.

I have attached 1) a letter sent to Chairman Boyd in August with the initial items for consideration by the Council and 2) a recent survey of the active stakeholders in the fishery detailing their responses to an increase in trip limits and verifying the carrying capacities of their vessels. I have the original copies of the surveys and each is signed by the permit holder.

Please include these materials in your discussion of the fishery at the Mackerel Committee meeting on Wednesday and any other discussions the Council may have on the matter. I am available by phone to answer any questions anyone may have.

My best and thank you,

Bill

Capt. Bill Kelly
Executive Director
Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
PO Box 501404
Marathon, Florida 33050
305-619-0039 C
305-743-0294 F
fkcf1@hotmail.com
www.FKCF1.org

=

Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association

P.O. Box 501404, Marathon, FL 33050

Phone & Fax: 305-743-0294 Cell: 305-619-0039
E-mail: FKCFA1@hotmail.com Website: FKCFA.Org

August 24, 2014

Mr. Doug Boyd, Chairman & Council Members
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

Re: Gulf of Mexico, Run-Around Gillnet King Mackerel Fishery in the Southern Sub-Zone

Dear Mr. Boyd & Council Members

As most of you are aware, the gillnet fishery in the Gulf of Mexico, is a highly efficient method of harvesting king mackerel with virtually no by-catch. The fishery is prosecuted as promptly as possible in order to maximize profits and allow most stakeholders to resume operations for spiny lobster and stone crab at a critical time in the fishing season for both species.

Because it is such a high yield fishery, there are occasions where stakeholders may unintentionally exceed the overly restrictive daily trip limit of 25,000 pounds, thereby subjecting themselves to significant fines. There are several instances as to how this might occur. For example: there are no scales on the vessels and operators must make educated guesses as to the quantity on board; they may be the 'last man out' on a particular day and face an unacceptable option of discarding any overage. Conversely, if other vessels are nearby, they may be able to pass the overage on to them which raises safety at sea issues, or simply return to the dock and declare the overage resulting in fines and a resource violation for their exercise in honesty.

Therefore, after surveying the stakeholders, we would like to offer the following proposals providing for accurate reporting and significant in-season and post-season accountability measures. We believe these recommendations would increase accountability, eliminate any potential profits from overages and reduce or eliminate the need for costly fines in a high-yield fishery.

1. Increase the daily trip limit to 45,000 pounds per vessel. Thirteen of the fifteen vessels actively engaged in the fishery have the capacity for higher landings and proper maintenance of their catch.
2. A vessel operator, suspecting he/she is over the trip limit, would be required to contact a NOAA/NMFS port agent prior to their return to dock reporting potential overages. By so doing, the stakeholder would not be fined or cited, if in fact, they exceeded the trip limit.
3. Trip limit overages by any vessel would be forfeited to law enforcement and proceeds from the sale of those overages would be donated to non-profit organizations.
4. Trip limit overages by any and all vessels would be automatically deducted from the current fishing year quota.
5. If the ACL is exceeded, the stakeholders would volunteer overages as paybacks with the amount of the overage to be deducted from the following year's fishing season.
6. Similarly, any amount under the ACL would be added to the quota for the following year's fishing season. (There is legitimate precedent for this action citing the 2012-13 season when NOAA/NMFS closed the season 100,000 pounds below the ACL.

Office Physical Address: 6363 Overseas Highway, Suite #4, Marathon, FL

7. These measures would not supersede appropriate law enforcement actions and fines for any stakeholder failing to report potential overages to an authorized port agent.

Pending the results of the SEDAR 38 stock assessment on king mackerel and an anticipated re-allocation of stocks from the recreational to the commercial sector, we expect an increase in quota will be the recommendation of the SSC and the Council. After a nearly 30 year rebuilding program in the kingfish fishery and recognizing it as one of the most underutilized fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico, we feel these adjustments are warranted, justifiable and pose no threat to the biological health of the fishery.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

s/ Bill Kelly

Capt. Bill Kelly
Executive Director

C: Doug Gregory, GMFMC Executive Director



Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association

P.O. Box 501404, Marathon, FL 33050

Phone & Fax: 305-743-0294 Cell: 305-619-0039
E-mail: FKCFA1@hotmail.com Website: FKCFA.Org

August 27, 2014

Mr. Doug Boyd, Chairman & Council Members
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

Re: Gulf of Mexico, Hook and Line King Mackerel Fishery in the Southern Sub-Zone

Dear Mr. Boyd & Council Members,

Stakeholders in the king mackerel fishery in the Southern Sub-Zone respectfully request the Council address several measures to enhance the fishery.

1. Increase hook and line trip limits in the Southern Sub-Zone to 2000 pounds or more.

In February of 2014, a total of 82 stakeholders signed a petition requesting the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils increase the trip limits from 1250 pounds with no step-down to 2000 pounds. Under Amendment 20B both Councils and their committees initially endorsed this proposal, then in the final hours reversed their positions and denied the request. This did nothing to protect fishermen in Southwestern Florida from increased fishing pressure and in fact only enhanced it. During the 2013-14 fishing season, over two-dozen permit holders from northeast Florida with trailerable boats and accompanied by two tractor trailers with freezer compartments, descended on the area and captured the quota in less than three weeks. In the interim Monroe County Fishermen, where the fishery originated, received not one single ounce of increased allocation.

The 1250 pound trip limit was set when marine fuel was \$0.60/gallon and has not been adjusted since then despite reassurances from fisheries managers that stakeholders would reap the rewards of the rebuilding process. Please revisit the trip limit and provide for a modest increase to help fishermen recover costs. These are not high-liner spiny lobster and stone crab fishermen looking for pocket change as some have suggested. These are hard-working, multi-species, commercial fishermen looking to earn a decent living.

2. Require hook and line permits be fished by region in either the Gulf of Mexico or South Atlantic.

Eliminate user conflicts within the industry by requiring permit holders to select the region they will fish within the Gulf of Mexico or the South Atlantic but not both. Permits are issued by region and are best fished by region.

3. Allow vessels with a kingfish gillnet permit to also hold a hook and line permit.

To the best of anyone's recollection this was a fisheries manager's requirement and not requested by Monroe County stakeholders engaged in the hook and line or gillnet fisheries. The only rationale being hook and line fishermen cannot possess a gillnet permit so why should gillnet fishermen possess a hook and line permit. Current permitting restrictions being what they are, no new permits are being issued in the gillnet fishery other than transfer of existing permits to immediate family members. However, anyone can apply for a hook and line permit except the 22 stakeholders in the gillnet fishery.

Office Physical Address: 6363 Overseas Highway, Suite #4, Marathon, FL

This is one of the most underutilized fisheries in our nation and our efforts should be geared at making it more accessible to commercial harvesters and consumers, not more restrictive.

It is our expectation both the SSC and the Gulf Council will recommend an increase in quota and trip limits based on a favorable outcome of the SEDAR 38 stock assessment. Therefore, it would be entirely appropriate to make these adjustments and provide balance to Monroe County fishermen, whom for years have had significantly lower trip limits than their counterparts in the northern Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

s/ Bill Kelly

Capt. Bill Kelly
Executive Director

C: Doug Gregory, GMFMC Executive Director

**ADVOCATES FOR FAIRNESS IN KING MACKEREL ALLOCATIONS
GMFMC MEETING – HOUSTON, TEXAS
FEBRUARY 3, 2014**

**JOINT MACKEREL AMENDMENT 20B – SUPPORTING A DAILY TRIP LIMIT INCREASE
FROM 1250# TO 2000# IN THE GOMEX SOUTHERN SUB-ZONE**

<u>STAKEHOLDER</u>	<u>BOAT NAME</u>	<u>DOCKED</u>
1. Adams, Daniel	Bigfoot	Fish Busterz
2. Alejandro, Dominguez	2 Hermanos	Fish Busterz
3. Arencibia, Francisco	Maru	Fishmen Seafood
4. Arencibia, Frank, Sr.	Maru	Fishmen Seafood
5. Arencibia, Santi	Janessa	Fishmen Seafood
6. Arnold, William	Y-No	Fish Busterz
7. Auaya, Pablo	My Twins	Fish Busterz
8. Balega, Jair	Miss Cholita	Fish Busterz
9. Beemon, Wade	FL7492EG	Fishmen Seafood
10. Bentley, Zach	Conchcubine	Hurricane Hole
11. Blanco, Anthony	Bigfoot	Fish Busterz
12. Blanco, David	One of a Kind	Fish Busterz
13. Blanco, J.J.	One of a Kind	Fish Busterz
14. Blanco, Jorge	Gatina	Fish Busterz
15. Blanco, Juan	One of a Kind	Fish Busterz
16. Blanco,, Rene	Bigfoot	Fish Busterz

17. Blues, Arculi	Bigfoot	Fish Busterz
18. Boza, Antonio	Cary	Fish Busterz
19. Boza, Eddie	Betty	Fish Busterz
20. Bosa, Eduardo	Betty	Fish Busterz
21. Bravo, Williams	Sea Boy	Fish Busterz
22. Brennan, Patrick	Bella	Fishmen Seafood
23. Calero, Jorge	Yully	Fish Busterz
24. Concepcion, Onel	Sea Boy	Fish Bsterz
25. Conuegra, Jose	Deysi	Fish Busterz
26. Delph, Michael	Screaming Mosquito	Private Dock
27. Diaz, Barbara	Blanca-Rosa III	Fishmen Seafood
28. Diaz, Jesus	Blanca-Rosa III	Fishmen Seafood
29. Diaz, Poelmis	Maru	Fishmen Seafood
30. Edwards, Richard	Darin	Fish Busterz
31. Estela, Raimel	Maru II	Fishmen Seafood
32. Estela, Yoel	Michel II	Fish Busterz
33. Fernandez, Joel	Miss Cholita	Fish Busterz
34. Fernandez, Jorge	Capitan L II	Fish Busterz
35. Ferrell, Rosaura	Espy	Fishmen Seafood
36. Franklin, Ben	FL7492EG	Fishmen Seafood
37. Garcia, Orlando	La Gatica	Fish Busterz
38. Gomez, Alva	Alva	Fish Busterz
39. Gomez, Eduardo	Alva	Fish Busterz
40. Gomez, Eduardo, Jr.	Alva II	Fish Busterz
41. Gonsalez, Victor	Perdaito	Fish Busterz
42. Griffith, Edmund	Capt. Andy	Stock Island Marina
43. Hernandez, Jesus	Espy	Fishmen Seafood
44. Hernandez, Martha	Espy	Fishmen Seafood
45. Hernandez, Rigoberto	Sugar Daddy	Fish Busterz
46. Herrera, Marco	M&M Too	Safe Harbor Marina
47. Hilliard, Michael	M&M Too	Safe Harbor Marina
48. Lazaro, Alonzo	Espy	Fishmen Seafood
49. Macias, Michael	Betty la Fea	Fish Busterz
50. Macias, Tony	Betty la Fea	Fish Busterz
51. Manzo, Omar	Omega	Fish Busterz
52. Marffi, Luis	Erena	Fish Busterz
53. Martell, Esnide	Blanco-Rosa III	Fishmen Seafood
54. Martine, Luis	Omega	Fish Busterz
55. Medero, Jesus	Espy	Fishmen Seafood
56. Morales, Antonio, Jr.	Erena	Fish Busterz
57. Morales, Cary	Betty	Fish Busterz
58. Muguelza, Juan	Blanco-Rosa III	Fishmen Seafood
59. Nicklaus, Josh	Capt. R&R	Carlos Seafood
60. Niles, George	Bella	Fishmen Seafood
61. Olamos, Angel	Yena II	Fish Busterz
62. Padron, Daniel	FL7492EG	Fishmen Seafood
63. Pantoja, Roberto	Espy	Fishmen Seafood
64. Perez, Osniel	Capt. Lady II	Fish Busterz
65. Perera, Hector	G.D.	Fish Busterz
66. Peters, Chad	M&M	Sunset Marina

67. Pierce, Mike	Darian	Fish Busterz
68. Pierce, Neal	Full House	Fish Busterz
69. Pierce, Sarah	Full House	Fish Busterz
70. Planelli, Leopoldo	Lucky Lindy	Fish Busterz
71. Ravelo, Ruben	Maru II	Fishmen Seafood
72. Reyes, Yoslainer	Michell-II	Fish Busterz
73. Rivera, Feliber	Great White Shark	Fish Busterz
74. Rodriguez, Leonardo	Teresita	Fish Busterz
75. Ruis, Danuel	Omega	Fish Busterz
76. Sanchez, Ed	--	--
77. Sariol, Eduardo	Alva	Fish Busterz
78. Sariol, Josefina	Alva II	Fish Busterz
79. Sellers, Steven	M&M Too	Safe Harbor Marina
80. Simek-Mesa, Carlos	Sea Boy	Fish Busterz
81. Valdez, Aldalberto	Blanca Rosa III	Fishmen Seafood
82. Vila, Golo	Perdrito	Fish Busterz

