Gale Feddern: My name is Gale Feddern, and I'm a marine life fisherman, and I have been for about 30 years, 40 years, something like that. I would like to see – I want Action 3, Alternative 1, which would be keeping the status quo of 50,000 gorgonians in federal waters, the EEZ zone, not counting state waters, because that is the way, you know, it's written. Somehow, in printing up stuff, it got screwed up, but anyway.

One year, we did actually approach the 50,000 mark, and I'm afraid that if we actually got to that mark, then we would not be able to collect again and that would be a tremendous hardship, economic hardship for all marine life fishermen, particularly ones like my family that depend mainly on the gorgonians.

And, yes, there's a law of supply and demand, but when things become scarce, you can only raise the price a certain amount. And if the price of gorgonians goes too high, then our buyers will buy elsewhere. They will seek gorgonians from foreign countries in the Pacific and whatever, and they're not just going to buy gorgonians. They're going to buy all their fishes there to and other invertebrates and that's going to leave us high and dry.

And our fisher has been a really healthy fishery, and we've never exceeded the quota. And we're pretty much – you know, we've got a very good cooperation of self-regulation and so forth, thanks to the Florida Marine Life Association. We're very, very conscientious about the health of the fishery, because we believe in conservation and we know that you have to limit things and so forth.

Let's see, also, we may not know when the limit is reached and then all of a sudden, bam, the limits reached and we're not able to get anything more. It doesn't even allow us – if you don't know that the limit is going to be reached very soon and you're not able to get anymore, then that does not allow you to hold any back and to parse it out to your customers.

That's about all I wanted to say, I guess, is that it would be a tremendous economic hardship on us and is completely unnecessary, because we're a very, very healthy fishery.

Moderator: Thank you, Gail, appreciate it.

[End of Audio]