Kenneth Fex: My name is Kenneth Fex. I'm a snapper grouper advisory panel, owner of fishing vessel, Rolibar. Comprehensive ACL's, I think you're being a little bit too conservative with the 75 percent of the average medium. I could see maybe 85 percent would be a little bit more along the lines. I think 25 percent cutback is a little too much, especially on unassessed stock. You're just going over the medium.

As for the trip limits, you know I support them. The advisory panel supported them, too. We brought up all of our numbers at the last meeting. As for the comprehensive ecosystem-based management, I'm concerned that might bring up a few more MPA's and I'm really not in support of that. I understand the basis behind it but we just did close a big area off of the whole EZ for coral from I think 1,400 feet to whatever feet this last year. I believe that's a large amount of area to close to protect coral.

And as for the catch shares, I'm totally against them. They failed in the South Atlantic through the rec fish. They're trying to revisit that because of the failure with that on the IFQ system. And I read *National Fisherman* all the time. I've read it for the last five years. They always talk about catch shares in there and there's very any positive sides to it and I don't think it's very good. Bob Spath, a major supporter of catch shares in the Gulf, was one of the original founders on that field to bring that forth, actually spoke at the meeting in Orlando opposing catch shares now since he's actually had to deal with them in his side. He opposed them on the South Atlantic because he knows what they do.

Senator Kay Hagan sent her assistant, Patrick Donovan, to the last meeting here in December here not supporting the catch shares. The advisory panel also did not support catch shares by a vote. The lab program failed because of the lack of information, lack of models that were requested for. And so I don't believe that catch shares should go any further forward, especially since they haven't brought any models.

I heard you talk about a referendum. I would like to see that. I'd like to actually have a vote on it for the permit holders because they are the real stakeholders in this.

I see the problem with the people supporting Matt Ruby. He's just a vessel owner. Phil Conklin, he's just a vessel owner. Charlie Philips, he's just a vessel owner. They're not fisherman. They're not the ones who are gonna have to be out there having to pay to catch their right to fish. Jack Cox supports them. He is a

fisherman. I'll give him that credit. At least he has sense in mind about it. But I totally don't support them.

As for the red snapper building in Amendment 22, that had to be something done by the southern states which are more prone to catching red snapper. We catch some up here, not the mass amount that we used to. They have made a big comeback but it is a problem in the southern states.

As for the grouper, the four-month spawning closure I thought should be substantial. It's going to take a long time for the juveniles to show up and everything but I think that will do a big effect on the rebuilding. If you have to do anything, I think trip limits would be an idea.

And as for the golden crab, from what I've seen at council meetings, they actually wanted a catch share program and I support that. I hope they go through it and realize that it's really not all it's made up to be.

So I thank you for your time.

Male: Thanks, Kenny. A bunch of other folks have just recently come into the room. If you wanted to be –

[End of Audio]