From: Chris McCaffity [mailto:freefish7@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2011 8:54 AM
To: Kim Iverson; Kim Iverson
Subject: Please submit these comments to the public record and forward them to the council members

Public Comments Regarding Amendment 20A

My name is Chris McCaffity. I am a commercial fisherman who has been offering common sense solutions that would mitigate many of the severe negative impacts associated with the regulations that fail to follow the mandates in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. After dealing with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council for years, it is painfully obvious that this bureaucracy will not follow all of the mandates in the MSA. Due to that refusal and many other factors I have ZERO confidence in their ability to properly manage ANYTHING.

The Wreckfish "fishery" is a perfect example of how the catch shares scheme environmental "charities" and their puppets in the leadership of the multiple layers of fishery bureaucracy want to force on us consolidate a fishery to the hands of a few people and corporations with money. This entire fishery is controlled by one or two people.

The council is planning to violate the MSA again by reducing the Wreckfish quota by about 90% based on the lack of participation in the fishery. They destroyed that fishery with catch shares before it ever really got started. This gross incompetence has caused fishermen to put more pressure on the shallow water fisheries. The areas where Wreckfish live also hold fish like Queen Snapper and Misty Grouper. Nobody fishes for them because we have to discard every Wreckfish if we do not own a share of those public resources. All of them would die after coming up from depths of 1,000' or greater. Many of the financial problems fishermen are facing could be mitigated if we had a chance to harvest part of the two million pound Wreckfish quota and some of the other species living in those areas.

This is how the Wreckfish fishery SHOULD be managed.

1. ABOLISH the existing catch share scheme and open the fishery to ALL South Atlantic snapper/grouper permit holders.
2. Leave the quota at two million pounds.
3. Begin an aggressive Artificial Reef program in areas where Wreckfish live. This would also help any other species that live around structure in deep water. Artificial Reefs are the perfect union of aquaculture and commercially harvested wild fish. We could greatly increase the total biomass our South Atlantic could support. We could help the fish,

fishermen, and consumers with this simple common sense approach that also advances liberty instead of always restricting it. We really should be focusing more on enhancing our fisheries instead of just restricting access to them.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments. I truly care about our marine resources. I want us to be wise stewards them. I want us to enhance those public resources so we can FEED more people. I want permit holders to have more control over how our fisheries are being managed. Our centuries of collective on-the-water experience needs to be combined with sound science and the slightest bit of common sense so we can have a responsible harvest of our Nation's seafood and provide consumers with a dependable supply of it.

Again, I call on Congress to pass a bill that will allow permit holders in a federal fishery to have final approval of all Amendments with a 2/3 majority vote. We should have access to all documents available to the councils and come up with alternative management plans using the existing Total Allowable Catches while following ALL of the mandates in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Congress should set up a peer review panel to insure all management plans submitted by the regional councils and the permit holders comply with the MSA. All existing regulations should be reviewed by the panel and allow the permit holders to offer alternatives for the regulations that fail to comply with the MSA.