



## SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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David Cupka, Chairman  
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Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director  
Gregg T. Waugh, Deputy Executive Director

October 20, 2010

Dr. Robert Shipp, Chairman  
GMFMC  
2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100  
Tampa, Florida 33607

Dear Bob,

As you are aware, we discussed the August 13, 2010 letter from Mark Robson to you relative to management of spiny lobster, stone crab, octocoral and reef fish (yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper and Nassau grouper) during our September 2010 Council meeting. Mark Robson explained that the purpose of his letter was to get clarification relative to Florida's and the Councils' management of these resources. This letter specifically addresses the action taken by the South Atlantic Council relative to management of yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper and Nassau grouper.

Various potential management scenarios were discussed for these snapper grouper complex species during our joint Executive Finance Committee meeting. Subsequently, the Committee approved a motion, which was later approved by the full Council, to indicate to the Gulf Council our willingness to assume management responsibility for yellowtail snapper, mutton snapper and Nassau grouper throughout their range.

I believe the next step is for the Gulf Council to consider our proposal relative to management of these species. If you require any further information, please contact me or Bob Mahood. Also, I plan to attend your October 2010 meeting and will be available to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

David Cupka  
Chairman

cc: Council Members and Staff  
Steve Bortone