

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Snapper Grouper Amendment 16 Public Hearing

**Jacksonville, Florida
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Summary Minutes

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You ready? Yeah my name is Alton Robey. I was born and raised fishing in Jacksonville, Florida out of Mayport. I've been a commercial fisherman for 18 years now. You may as well just call me Alton "Alternate 1 No Action" Robey because all of this is absurd. There is no possible way you can tell me you're just gonna make some rash decision to put these massive closures on and put all these people out of business and take away all these people's livelihood when ya'll don't even know how many fish are *in* the ocean! Ya'll are just gonna do this because somebody tells ya to? Because you have to?

If I were you, I would tell them no! There's no way that we can sit here and put these laws into place for these guys and take their work away from them when we know it's wrong. You know it's wrong and she probably knows nothin' and knows it wrong sitting over there. This is absolutely absurd that ya'll will even taken any action whatsoever until you have proper data! I volunteer. I will lay my numbers out on a table, all the spots that I have. You can pick them at random. I will take you out there is ya'll will pay for a diver to go out there. I will take him for free. I will pay the gas. You want to go out there and get some actual data, come out there with a video camera and a scuba tank. I'll show you things that you had no idea were there and I won't even take you to my favorite spots. You can pick the spots that you want to dive and make your own judgments on them. Go with me. I'll go with you or you can go by yourself.

Ya'll have no idea what's out there and ya'll are making these irrational decisions that are gonna end all of our careers. You have no idea the impact that this is gonna have. The timing of all this in our economic situation is ungodly! Why, all of the sudden now when we're all strugglin' bad enough now are you gonna come down with all this absurd crap! And you don't even know why you're doing it. Because somebody higher up tells you, "Well we have to." That's crap! And ya'll should be ashamed of yourselves as representatives of our fishery's management. Ya'll should be ashamed of yourselves and I agree with Mark Williams. If all of you lose your job, we hadn't lost anything because ya'll aren't representing us. Ya'll are just sittin' up there doing nothin'!

Yeah, let's have a meeting the second day of the opening of lobster season in downtown Jacksonville. Let's have a meeting when all the spear fisherman can't even come and speak on it because they're out there, they can finally go out there and make a living getting lobster because it doesn't have anything to do with these stupid meetings. They're all scared to death; they're trying to make their last dollar before ya'll shut them out of business. All these guys have mortgages, they have boat payments. They have credit cards. They have gas bills at the marinas that they stay at. How are they gonna afford to do this? It wouldn't make sense!

If ya'll had any iota of a notion of what ya'll were doing with this management, but ya'll are totally clueless and ya'll are still gonna jeopardize all these people's livelihoods. All of you should be ashamed of yourself.

That's alright, I might got all day, you know. I won't have a job next year, so it's okay. Are we on? I'm Becky Hogan. I'm Captain George Strate's partner. Myself and Captain George have the party boat, Mayport Princess. This is our 38th year running party boats out of Mayport, Florida, so I believe that with Captain George's experience – I've only been doing this for 14 years – that any information that we would have to give the council would be of utmost importance. What really concerns me is the decisions that they are making based on the data that's been, what I've been told, having spoken to several people, Ken Brennan being one of them. He's actually National Marine Fisheries, which is under NOAA that 25% of the data that you guys are considering for making these changes is coming from the headboat surveys. 25% is coming from the phone surveys, which that – even the gentleman next door said they think that maybe that might have been flawed data and then some of it is coming from the commercial side.

The surveys that we are asked to do on a daily basis, the sheets that we have been asked to fill out, I'll be honest with ya, I've had the Mayport Princess, I've fished a minimum of 200 days a year. I have probably one of the most successful party/charter boats in the state of Florida. Nobody has been doing any kind of sampling and we keep our daily data sheets. We call, "What do you want us to do with these?" "Dan's going to be there to pick them up." Dan never came to pick them up. I will go on record as saying Ken Brennan, who works for the National Marine Fisheries in Beaufort, South Carolina, called me and said to me on the telephone, "Becky, can we kind of keep this to ourselves, but we're having a problem with Dan and I need to get some data about him." Then we went through a series of dates that Dan was supposedly had sent records in, catch records for our boat, he wasn't even in Mayport. I'll put my hand on a Bible and tell you. He was not there that day. He said he was there. He filled out catch records.

The reason that concerns me is I don't care if Dan's doing his job. He's not on my payroll. He doesn't work for the Mayport Princess, but he's come according to what I was told over there, Dan's data for Mayport. I don't care what's going on in South Carolina. I realize we all have the same motion, but we've been fishing here for 38 years. Dan's data is gonna shut me down. Phone surveys from people that don't even know what snapper, grouper, ver – I mean my customers some of them don't know what the fish are until we tell them. Their date is gonna shut us down because now, according to what Greg told me over there, I said I didn't realize that you know – he said, "No, no, we're overfishing the vermillion. We don't really think there's that much of a shortage. We're just overfishing it." Okay, I understand that. We're allowed 10 per person right now. We're thinking about, according to your preferred alternative, we're gonna shut down the recreational side and then let the commercial, which I'm glad, trust me, for all you commercial people to be able to catch anything from January to June and from July to December.

What I want to know, Mr. Geiger, what is recreational about what I do? Captain George Strate is 60 years old. He has gotten up 200 days a year for the last 38 years to make his living, making people in this town happy, 6,000 people a year plus. That's how we make our living. That's our income. I'm the most successful party boat in the state of Florida. If you close my beeliners, I'm not gonna have customers. I've polled every one of them

since all this started coming up about a year ago and they have all said the same thing. “We’re not coming fishing if we can’t keep our fish.” So I’m concerned about the data that you’re using. You’re saying that there’s too many and I’m overfishing them. I really don’t understand that and 10 per person. Now, so but the commercial people and, like I said, I’m really glad that ya’ll will be able to fish for something and at least have some kind of quotas, what is recreat – I mean I know I’m not trying to get you to reclassify the headboat industry, but I don’t do this recreationally; I do it for a living. I have a half a million dollar boat sitting at a marina slip that I pay in excess of \$40,000.00 a year just to tie my boat up.

For seven months I’m not gonna be able to keep snapper, vermillion snapper, red snapper, got a four month closure on the grouper, which I, as I will go on record, I think we do need to manage the grouper and I think that’s just based on what I see out of Mayport. There might not be problems in the Carolinas and stuff, I don’t know, but we don’t – I have seen over the years, we don’t catch as many of the gray grouper and the grouper that we have been catching. Snapper and grouper is so off the chart. I mean George could go out there any day of the year and we have begged Ken Brennan to come down, begged him to come on our boat and see what record catches we’re having of the red snapper and vermillion snapper that you’re trying to shut me down on.

I mean if you want to decrease the bag limit if you’ve got to do something, I mean there are some other alternatives, but to completely shut down what you call – I don’t consider myself recreational. I have to have the federal permits to go fishing. I have to have a commercial sticker on my boat. I have to pay all the federal taxes and then I’ve got to turn around and pay all the recreational taxes, so I don’t consider what I do recreational. I work really hard to earn my money. To put somebody like George Strate out of business that’s devoted his entire life in the same town making 6,000 people happy every year – he’s a legend. There’s probably half of these people learned to fish from Captain George, you’re gonna put me, put us out of business. I mean there’s just – if you can’t keep anything, what are we gonna fish for?

I can’t pay a \$1,000.00 a month phone bill, \$26,000.00 a month health insurance, \$20,000.00 liability on my boat, \$40,000.00 a year to tie my boat. How am I gonna pay all that fishing, what? Three or four months out of the year? Are you kidding me? You know what, if you gotta do something about your bag limits and your size limits, I’d look at that, if you got some data to tell me there’s so many beeliners, but we’re overfishing them so we want you to cut back. Okay, but I don’t understand, like I said the commercial guys at least they’ll get to catch something. I’m gonna catch nothing? There’s nothing recreational about what George Strate does every morning when he gets to that dock at 5:00 and doesn’t come out of there until 6:30 or 7:00 every night. I don’t see anything recreational about that. It’s how we make our living and we will not – we will be done. I will not be sitting here next year to give you a comment if you shut us down. There is no chance I will be fishing next year if you put these closures on. Nada.

Bill Strate: My name is Captain Bill Strate, Strate Flush Fishing Charters. I live in Ponte Vide Beach and I want to address from the workshop here the decisions being made based on flawed data. Everyone acknowledged that it isn't the best data, but we're moving ahead and making a decision based on bad data and knowing its bad, is unconscionable. If you're in a hurry to do something, it will not be done properly. We know there are errors. We have this Amendment before us. It needs to be delayed. We need a better stock assessment and I welcome them asking recreational anglers, millions of them, what they catch because I think instead of saying that the catch is so overfished, you're gonna see that the population is so strong, its supporting that catch and your determination of a biomass, oh by the way they don't have one for vermillion snapper, hasn't been done accurately.

The data that comes up with this conclusion couldn't possibly support the fact that so many anglers are catching so many fish. Doesn't make sense. I wish, begged, that the council take consideration in delaying this, but it is already in the works to have this thing done. They started trying to find a new database. Delay this decision until it is done properly. That's all I have to say, thank you.

George Geiger: Okay, and understand the provisions for vermillion snapper in the Amendment are put in there to move forward if the results of the stock assessment or redoing of the stock assessment based on aging of otoliths. The previous stock assessment was age-length stock assessment.

Bill Strate: Correct.

George Geiger: Which are not as accurate as otoliths in aging based –

Bill Strate: If I'm mistaken, that data is not going to be available for two years, but this Act is gonna –

George Geiger: No, no, no. The 8,000 otoliths that were aged prior to June, the stock assessment is in process now. If in fact, the results of that stock assessment, based on aging of those otoliths indicate that we don't need to take the measures, we're going to back off, but if it doesn't indicate or there is no change to the data, we're in a position where we will move forward with the data that has been now verified based on an aging stock assessment, an age-based stock assessment. So the stock assessment is being reviewed as we speak.

Bill Strate: Yeah, but its not gonna be in place until after this Amendment is already –

George Geiger: No, it will be.

Bill Strate: I heard something different over there then I’m sorry or maybe I misunderstood.

George Geiger: No, we’re going to receive, the council will receive the – I believe at our December meeting, we’re gonna receive the stock – the SSC will receive the vermilion stock assessment and it will be reviewed by the council at that meeting.

Bill Strate: But isn’t the 15th of December the drop dead date on this?

George Geiger: I don’t believe so.

Bill Strate: Maybe I misunderstood then.

George Geiger: I don’t believe so, but there is a new age-based stock assessment that is in progress on vermilion snapper.

Bill Strate: There’s other people. Thank you.

Bob Houghton: Good afternoon, I'm Bob Houghton. The thing I'd like to address is your vermillion snapper and your red snapper, both. Your vermillion snapper, I fished in Jacksonville offshore since 1970. I very rarely fish offshore now anymore because of age and fuel and the size of my boat. I have a 17 foot boat, but I watched today and I watched the Mayport Princess come in with 40 fishermen on it, 10 legal snapper on it, today, yesterday. Any day they go out, they are gonna come back with their 10 legal snapper. I can tell you in 1985, they didn't. I went out in 1985 on headboats and we didn't catch 10 of what you would consider a legal red snapper today, either size limit on red snapper or vermillion snapper. They just weren't there, so when you're saying that your biomass has gone down, I don't know what historic level you're aiming at because in 1985 we didn't have any vermillion snapper on the party grounds. We didn't have any red snapper in the summer on the party grounds at all and today you can go out and limit out on both very easily. It isn't gonna affect me much because of age.

George Geiger: I understand your concerns with red snapper, Bob, but really there are a lot of people here. We need to concen –

Bob Houghton: Okay, but the vermillion snapper, you're indicating that you have a shortage of vermillion snapper apparently and I don't know what you're basing this on. You're not basing this on good science because good science would be going down and looking. Good science would be going down there and standing and watching a head boat come in. If you want good science, you ought to ask these captains that are fishing out here every day on red snapper, why don't you give them a tagging kit and let them tag fish? Now you'd know how much they grow. You'd know how much they migrate. You'd have a lot of data from these fish, but nobody ever does that. We do that by a random phone sample that we call some guy in Lake City that doesn't even know what a red snapper is.

I think its time that you start trying to get data that works. These charter boats would be glad to give you cooperation. They'd be glad to tag fish for you and I mean a lot of fish and now you'd know, do they migrate? You'd know how they grow. You'd know a lot about these fish that you don't know now, but if you think that they're short now, they aren't. I think everybody in here will agree that the vermillion snapper fishing today is far better than it was 10 years ago, far better, and I'll stop right there because there are a lot of people behind me.

Thank you. I'm Bob Isley. I'm a recreational angler and I'm here on behalf of myself, no organization or anything. Just a couple of things that I think have come clear is that throughout the discussions in the previous room and here with you today, a couple of the things that I think are clear are that we need to have better sampling of particularly the recreational catch and then better stock assessments because I think the person experience that we've had out there is that our stocks are doing pretty darn well and we're catching fish today that we weren't catching years ago and Bob before me just made that comment.

So a lot of us question the need for this severe of a reduction in the bycatch that is being implemented. I also would suggest that there be more emphasis put on elimination the juvenile mortality of a lot of the fish that we're talking about and that would help improve the stocks altogether. I think that the price of gas and the impact that it has had on individual recreational anglers hasn't been adequately considered particularly in light of the closures that are being proposed. I know personally I haven't fished offshore in three months and a lot of that has been because of the price of gas.

My personal view is that it is irresponsible to close all fishing for a particular species primarily because what you do is shift the emphasis to another species and cause an overfishing of that other species, so I don't see this, the remedies that are being proposed in terms of closing the all taking of either the gag grouper or the vermillion snapper for a period of time as a really viable way of reducing the overall catch and what I would suggest reducing the bag limit or boat limit or there is a proposal to reduce to 1,000 pounds on the commercial vessels, but that really didn't impact any of the commercial vessels anyway, so I mean reducing it further might permit those vessels to go out there, catch 500 pounds of snapper or grouper and then also get other species, but without targeting one species so heavy that it wipes out and causes this problem down the road for another type of species. That's all, thank you very much.

For the record, Dennis O'Hern, executive director of Fishing Rights Alliance. The Fishing Rights Alliance is a group composed largely of private recreational anglers. We also have charter members and a few commercial vertical line guys. The big thing about Fishing Rights Alliance, we're concerned about fairness in fisheries management and sound science being used to make sound management decisions. I've expressed my concerns before that we've got some serious issues with the gag assessment.

Also, some issues with the vermillion assessment and the red snapper assessment, I think you just saw some interesting information from Mr. Young that shows if he's got that 2007/2008 landings like that, those ain't eight year old fish. Those are some pretty significantly aged red snapper. We've brought it up before on the record that we're concerned about the natural mortality rate used in the gag grouper stock assessment. We've been stonewalled on that, but I still believe that presents a pessimistic picture of the gag far more than we need to manage. The catch limits, the tax that ya'll been setting, they seem to be artificially low. We need to manage to maximum sustainable yield. Not to OI, not to 75% of a number that the scientist already said we should be able to take out of the water.

With the accountability measures coming forth, we're gonna be cut down to 75% or less in vermillion it was 20% of maximum sustainable yield is what you're allowing the tact to be, the OI. That just doesn't work. It simply doesn't work and it's an economic impact beyond anything I saw on the board, anything at all. The economic impacts look to be about a dime on the dollar for what really happens. Example: Gulf of Mexico when they tried the two month grouper closure a few years ago. National Marine Fisheries Service contended it was less than a million dollar impact when it turned out to be about a \$200 million dollar impact for two months. There's significant lack of consideration for these economic impacts. You're hearing from people who are going to be put out of business by this on precautionary measures and the comments I've heard by some of the people driving this are, "Who cares? We'll have more fish. The fishermen will come back some day."

They don't seem to care about the livelihoods and the lives of these people or the fact that we live in a state that bills itself as a fishing capital of the world. Another thing that I noticed and I'm just stumped by is that the South Atlantic Council even put out for public comment that split for Monroe County. That's the only alternative that you have in Amendment 16 that separates gag and black. Everything else, nobody can tell the difference, but in The Keys they can? It just – there is such imbalance there, I'm really concerned about that. I'm concerned about that whole thing happening in The Keys to actually separate it out and I think some of the people in Jacksonville wanted to go on record as saying they like their own little section and their own regulations too. You're gonna set a real bad precedent if the council considers that.

You need to look at setting the tack up a little bit higher on gag. The SSC is not the final rule yet. The SSC does not set the law that you guys have to stick to. Not yet and not if I have my way and we have our way. Maximum sustainable yield is more what you need to consider, so we hope you will because I think that will give us a little bit more leeway.

Nobody wants to see the stocks crash. Everybody wants to see the fish healthy and as I know that you all do too, so for that we appreciate what you do.

Dennis Young, Jr.: I'm Dennis Young, general manager of Jacksonville Marina, also the owner and operator of Sea Dancer Charters here in Jacksonville. I've been involved with those businesses for over 30 years here locally. My background as far as offshore fishing extends back from the time I was 13 years old until now and I'm 62.

I primarily started in Destin, Florida and I've worked my way around the east coast of Jacksonville. Over the years I've been able to see the growth, diminishment, and regrowth of the red snapper fishery here in Jacksonville. In 17988, 1989, and 1990, I stood before council and proposed to them to make the fishing limit for red snapper 20 inches. They couldn't understand why. They had the limit set below the reproductive size of the fish. We kept pounding and pounding and finally they gave in and gave us in 1992 the limit we wanted.

For some unforeseen reason in 1993 and 1994, we had a huge hatch of red snapper because we got it above the right limit. The fish you see right here in front of you came from 10 years ago. We've done this every single year the last 10 years. If you look closely, you'll see different sizes of red snapper on this board from the basic limit of 20 inches all the way to 32 pounds. I do that every day. I do it 200 days a year, okay? There is nothing wrong with our red snapper fishery in Jacksonville. It is healthy. I don't know where your numbers are coming from, wherever you got them, it is wrong.

I've advertised and requested people to go on my boat and watch what we do. A lot of things you don't see are the fish that we throw back, the ones that are six inches long, the ones that are 12 inches long, the ones that are 18 inches long, and the numbers that we throw back. They say that they are not there. They are there. I do them everyday. We need to go back and look at this fishery. Same thing for vermillion snapper. The vermillion snapper population right now is the best I've seen and I'm talking about fish that weigh up to five pounds. We catch those every day from 20 miles to 30 miles out. We even find one and two pound fish now that are inside of 10 miles, which is very uncommon.

We have people catching red snapper off our jetties, which we've never done before. I don't know how the council can make a statement that they are gonna close the red snapper fishery with the population that we have now. The impact on the marina itself, on Jacksonville Marina on the poll I've done with our customers, if we close the fishery to red snapper, we're gonna lose 40% to 50%

of our clientele. We're gonna lose over 60% of our offroad traffic, off river traffic for bait, ice, tackle, fuel. That's a devastating impact for the marina. For my charter business, it's gonna close me. If I can't fish for these fish, groupers, snapper in beeliners over a period of seven months or six months, it is business closing for us, okay? What we'll do is go to The Keys and find other fish to pick on. That's all we can do. That's all I have.

George Geiger: Let me ask you a question.

Dennis Young, Jr.: Yes sir?

George Geiger: What are the dates associated with these pictures?

Dennis Young, Jr.: These pictures right here, these pictures were taken in 1999. These photos you're looking at right now. This board was set up for the 2000 boat show here in Jacksonville. I have a board for every year. I have a website, seadancercharters.com. Seadancer, S-E-A-dancercharters.com and you'll go back and see historical pictorial history of everything we do for the last 10 years and you're gonna see the same thing day in and day out. The fish are there. We had a hatchery – if we say we have a three year time frame to get a snapper to 20 inches, which they've told us they do, why did I consistently see 20 inch snapper over a 10 year period without there not being a hatch? Don't make sense. The fish are being born and they are going to be born even more.

If you give us a 21 inch limit on red snapper and leave that fishery alone, you're gonna find more out there. It'll happen because you turned back the numbers of 20 inch fish that are reproducing now to greater numbers and let us take the ones 21 and over and you'll see an abundance of red snapper. Thank you.

George Geiger: Thank you, sir.

My name is Derek Seagull. I'm a member of the Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club. I've been fishing these waters here in Jacksonville since 1973. Most of the gentleman that's already spoke like Captain George and Dennis Young – I've learned to fish from those folks. As far as closing the snapper and the grouper and all like that, I don't see it. We've been fishing the last six months with other people on different boats and we've limited out and a lot of fish have been released alive and as far as doing this closure, I don't see why they're doing it. They really need to look at the numbers as far as doing all the fishing. I don't think its there. It doesn't necessitate it. Plus I take a lot of kids fishing. You tell a kid, "Hey, you gotta turn that fish back because you can't have it." That's kind of tough to explain to them. You catch a 30 or 40 pound fish and you say, "Well, you gotta turn him back." So that's my biggest thing is closing it is not gonna help it. Management yes, but not closing it. That's all I've got to say about that.

Good afternoon. I'm up here for a different meeting, but I decided to speak. My name is Doug Gregory. I'm from the Florida Keys and most of the people, like the earlier gentleman said, are out lobster fishing now and the council chose not to have a public hearing in The Keys on this issue on this second round, so I want to testify on two things; one would be on the gag grouper. At the request of the fishing industry, I helped them analyze some landings data that was presented to the council in Orlando that showed in Monroe County, the Florida Keys when you look at all the gag harvested in the south Atlantic region, we catch less than 1% of the total gag.

Also, when you look at all the grouper caught in Monroe County both totally and on Atlantic waters, we looked at the log book data and the trip ticket data, less than 1% of all the grouper caught are gag. So it is the general consensus among the charter boat, recreational, and commercial fisherman down there that there is no real reason to close red and black grouper, which are the primary grouper species that are harvested in order to protect gag. So what they've done collectively is proposed to the council that for Monroe County close gag year round and that should more than adequately make up for any bycatch mortality that occurs while fishing for reds and blacks.

Now, I know some of your staff and Dr. Crabtree in the regional office has some concern about reds and blacks because 15 or more years ago somebody did some analysis indicating that they might be overfished according to some SPR level. I would content that those analyses are so old as to be irrelevant now, particularly with red grouper. There is new data that shows that they mature at 13 inches instead of 18 inches that was previously considered. Blacks probably – there's never been a stock assessment on blacks, a true stock assessment, but there's been analyses that people have done, some of them very shoddy, some of them were good.

Blacks do mature at 32 inches. We have a size limit now at 24 inches. So from a common sense standpoint, you might be concerned about blacks, but I don't think that's a justification for closing a fishery prior to a stock assessment, particularly, when there's gonna be a black stock assessment in another year or two. It will be conducted by the state. At that time, if it shown to be overfished, I think that's an appropriate time to manage blacks, but not to do it in a backdoor way because of gag concerns. I think the one year closure on gags South of Miami Dade would be acceptable to the industry there.

The other thing I wanted to comment on was the venting tool issue. I think that's good in general. I would not urge you to adopt the same regulatory language which the Gulf Council in the State of Florida adopted because it is too restrictive. It does tend to discourage needle nose pliers. In my limited experience, when you are removing a hook, they don't rehook and if you're gonna measure the fish, you're gonna be handling them anyways. So there should be an obvious allowance for the use of pliers and needle nose pliers and clean up the wording of that so it's not exactly like it is on the Gulf Council because it is very confusing. Nobody knows what a blunt-nosed pliers is. Nobody knows what an alligator plier is. I went online and looked it up and it turned out to be some brand of channel locks, channel lock type pliers.

So I think some of the language needs to be cleaned up. The venting requirement is appropriate. The dehooking requirement is appropriate. I would even urge the use, requirement for circle hooks for everything except yellowtail snapper, but if that's confusing, we can handle the circle hook issue. Most people use them anyway for bottom fishing and that's a good educational issue. So those are the only two issues I want to talk about. Thank you.

Hi, my name is Frank Heatwole. I was born and raised here in Jacksonville. I'm 52 years old. I've been fishing here pretty much all my life, ever since I was a kid. I think everybody is gonna stay for after this meeting for this red snapper issue, but I've fished with Joe quite a few times and we've had some pretty good times on the boat and caught some nice fish, but I've never had to call fish like I have in the last couple of years. The snapper has been really over the limit by multiple inches, not just a tail method like its gone to now, but we're catching them, but I see a difference in the redfish when they stopped using the gill nets and stuff it made a difference.

For instance, last year I caught three rock bass that was tagged fish. They was released from Chase – well, actually Chase, South Carolina was the tag on it and they was released at Gray's Reef. We got documentation from them. I called them and weighed the fish and measured them and all that stuff for them, but I've never caught a tagged red snapper. I mean if we're doing all this looking into what's going on for the fisheries and stuff, you would think you would catch a fish that had a tag so they could track it and find out where it – how old it is and how long its been there and the size and is it eating well and getting plenty of bait. I'd say we had some pretty good times on the snappers and beeliners and all that stuff, but the majority of your offshore fisherman are not going out there to catch four or five beeliners. Commercial guys, charterboat guys, yeah they are trying to get their customers on some fish because that is their livelihood.

I'm just a recreational fisherman, but I had to go to a four stroke engine so I could even afford to go fishing and you gotta have – I got a 25 foot boat. You gotta have at least four or five people to go to even go catch a fish without costing you \$400.00 or \$500.00. You might as well go to McDonald's and get a fish fillet sandwich or something.

I think everybody that is in here as far as the snapper wouldn't mind staying over and listening to what you got to say. We've been doing most of the talking and you've just been having to listen. I, myself, think I was fishing _____ hatchee on the Gulf side. Drag a boat all the way over there. Well, they've cut down on the strawberries and the gags. I've been – two years ago over there in _____ hatchee and catch over 60 strawberry groupers, but I don't have three legal ones out of 60 fish. So there's no problem with the strawberry groupers and you catch a few gags because – I've never caught a gag over here trolling, but you go over there and you can troll with stretch 30s and catch a pile of dern gags.

But most of your strawberry groupers, they put a ban on it here and like say, you go on the Gulf side, _____ hatchee area, you gotta go out 40, 50 miles to catch a red snapper. You go here, four or five miles off shore, catch a limit, start _____, turn them loose. Like the gentleman next door was talking about the kill ratio, how many pounds for the fish that end up dying, 50% or whatever you turn loose and stuff. I think by implementing this dehooker and deflater that they are talking about, that should actually help the ratio of fish dying that maybe would offset some of the problem ones, but overall I'm just one person and I just feel like this is – I think we need to do a little more studying because I've never seen the red snapper like it is in the last two years for me.

I mean I've had a boat for the last probably 20 years and I fish inshore and outshore and I enjoy both, but there's nothing like hooking onto a big old red or a dern amberjack or something like that and seeing that big old colored up fish coming up there looking at ya. So that's all I got to say.

I'm Gary Burdette. I'm representing the North Florida Coastal Conservation chapter. The Coastal Conservation Association has always had as their number one priority the health and well-being of the fisheries and in an emotionally-charged situation like this, I personally would recommend the best sciences that are available and, if indeed, the fisheries are in such a dire situation, I would recommend that the recreational and commercial share this. It seems like the recreational fisherman has been targeted, reducing their amount of catch, and then closures.

One of the more recent studies done by the FWC is that they suggest that the recreational fisherman has already been reduced and they cite their boarding's, which they board the recreational fisherman boats for safety and for fishing violations. This is really down from the past couple of years and it's primarily because of the gas that these fishermen have to pay to go offshore. So I would suggest looking at some additional data that is available and the one thing that the Coastal Conservation Association always does is they make their decision based on the best data available and I'm suggesting that maybe there is more current data available that the Council can look at. Thank you.

George Strate: My name is George Strate. I'm the owner/operator of the party boat Mayport Princess. I've been to quite a few of these meetings and it's obvious that everybody is saying the same thing. There is more fish than there ever was and the information that you're collecting is wrong. They were talking about the otoliths for the ear bones for the vermillion snapper. You said there was 6,000 or so ear bones collected. Isn't that what you said sir?

George Geiger: For vermillion snapper.

George Strate: For vermillion snapper. Where were they collected at?

George Geiger: There were a number of places, North Carolina and South Carolina and I'm not exactly sure how many others.

George Strate: Okay, well there weren't any collected in Mayport from the two party boats there. There weren't any collected in Daytona and there weren't any collected in the Cape. The man that has been doing the measuring for our fish that takes our catch records and stuff, we haven't seen him in a year. Apparently, he's not working. He's still working there, but not doing any collecting anymore. I've had to mail my catch records off. I saw the man that came down to visit us; I mailed my catch records off to him.

Your data information is definitely wrong. It's not being collected properly and you have internal problems that need to be fixed before you go putting everybody out of business. There's more fish now than there has ever been. We are very conscientious about taking care of the fishing industry. We are conservation minded. We work hard. We work hard every day. We vent our fish. I vent my fish in the same place and my crew has been taught to do that for 25, 30 years now. A lot of the fish – sure, some of them die, but most of them survive. We've caught fish that we've already vented because we can see where it was in the fish. I've caught fish that we've cut the hooks off and left the hooks in and we've caught the fish again with our hooks still in them.

If you guys would like me to take you out on the boat, I'll take you guys wherever you want to go. I'll show you that the fish are there. I'll show you that the fish that we turn loose live. I think you've overstepped your boundaries and need to check on data again before you start putting everybody out of business because it's gonna be a major impact for the Jacksonville area with boats, fisherman, tackle supply stores, boat sales, trailer sales, everything. If you stop the fishing, it's gonna hurt a lot of people. I appreciate your comments.

George Geiger: Thank you, sir.

I'm Hobart Joost. I live in Atlantic Beach, Florida. I've been snapper and grouper fishing for 35, 38 years. I've been scuba diving for 20 years. You've got my testimony already. I was in Orlando. I appreciate what you guys do, but your data is flawed. I'm not gonna go into the history. 1992 was a good year. That was when ya'll put size and number restraints on what we catch and we're enjoying the benefits of that now.

The closure of a fishing resource is indicative of a severe collapse of that fishing. Ya'll are talking about closing the fishery. What these guys behind me already said and what these other people are gonna say is there's not a problem. There's more snapper out there than there has been in 12 years. There was an abundance, it got overfished; you guys fixed it and we're enjoying it now. I'm not gonna talk about mortality because that doesn't matter to me. It does matter, but that's not a concern in my mind. I think you guys are listening, but you have your hands tied and like I said, you have my testimony from before. Thanks.

Yeah. Hubert Weber, Captain and owner of the commercial fishing vessel Bottom Dollar, a non-profitable organization at the moment. Amendment 16, I just got done being in the other room looking at all your numbers on what you're basing your information on to reduce the catch and the quotas and frankly the numbers that you have, we used the word "skewed" quite a bit over the years that I've been in here. Basically, I can't really use that word anymore from what I've been looking at and so these numbers that you have are false. They are not even close to being accurate. They are based on innuendos and just random information. The only thing that you have accurate in there is commercial landings and you can actually see on the chart from '95 on down that were the landings decreased due to the decrease of commercial fishing men.

All the boats decreased after '95 when you did the two for one. They started going downhill from there on. I think there was like 2500 commercial vessels or about that back in those days and probably less than 200 of them now and your numbers are actually on the quotas, your catch is going down because the number of commercial boats that you have out there are going down, but you also don't take into account – I read where in '04 and '05 was one of the biggest catches of the last 20 years and that it prompted part of this to look at reducing bi-catch, our catch of the grouper or the gags, and I lived through '04 and '05 and it was the worst two hurricane seasons we ever had on record. So my question, one of the questions to the council is who is the Forrest Gump that goes out there and catches all these fish in '04 and '05? There is no way that the gag grouper is going down; not based on the last four years anyway. You have now increased fuel costs, people are making less trips, they can't go out as far, so they're not going to be out there catching as many, so you're basically going to start increasing the amount of gag grouper out there, not decreasing it. It's going the other way. If anything right now, it would be stable.

You base a lot of this on recreational numbers that you do random phone calls from what I understand to find out what the recreational sector does and based on those numbers, you are prompting all these issues. Now, I'm a firm believer in trying to get control over fishing period. I think we need to have fish for the future and this is the only way to go about doing it. You can't go out there randomly and catch and kill everything blatantly and have nothing left for what we're going to do 10 years from now. So management is the only tool that we got, but you have to base it on sound numbers and you have the headboats that produce log books, which are sound numbers. You have the commercial end of it that are accurate. The recreational sectors need to be addressed because you can't base what you're going to do on false numbers.

The other thing is you made several proposals. You've already addressed the spawning issue with the closure in March and April and that shows a significant impact of what's going on and it's improving the stock assessment out there. It is a very good tool, but there is a point where you cannot continuously eliminate commercial fishing in this industry because if you keep taking days and months away from us for fishing, there is no more commercial fisherman. Then you're not going to have a problem anymore with your overstock. You're not even going to have an issue anymore. We're all going to

become recreational fisherman eventually and then you're not going to be able to know what's going on.

What I like to see is the 1,000 pound trip limit. It seems to have been effective with the greater Amberjack. It's worked; immensely it's worked. It was a great tool, but you cannot throw in January, February, March, and April on top of it because then you just eliminate the commercial fishing industry altogether. I can't survive. I mean I don't know what business can only work six months a year and then the other six months you've got hurricanes, August and September. So there is very limited to what you can actually do to us. The 1,000 pounds I think it was #3 and starting the fishing year from May to the end of April would be sufficient. I think it would be significant. I don't know a lot of boats that go out there and catch gag grouper, 1,000 pounds in a day. It's not because they're not out there, it's because it's just not a possible task.

What I'm not clear on is what does a boat that goes out for three to four days do? If they're out there for four days, do you they allow them 4,000 pounds? So that needs to be addressed, but that's what I've got to say on the matter and I appreciate your time.

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George Geiger: Our first speaker will be Mark Williams.

Jerry White: Sorry.

Mark Williams: Oh, go ahead. Let this gentleman go.

Jerry White: Oh I'm sorry.

Mark Williams: It's alright.

Jerry White: Jerry White, I gave you the card.

Mark Williams: He was here first.

George Geiger: Alright, Jerry, go ahead.

Jerry White: I'm appreciative of the efforts that are coming forth here, but my name is Jerry White. I am a resident of Jacksonville and I am concerned with the data that is not included in the data that was presented in the other program. That data is from the poaching of our fishing resources by foreign countries, particularly Central and South America and the fact that we had a Japanese longliner sitting off our coast here within 85 miles for over a year with a whole fleet of little ships and their long lines and calls to the State Department and our representatives were to no avail because they were afraid of an international incident if we treated them like they treat us if we get in their territorial waters. The poaching by foreign nations of our fish stocks, as everyone should well know has resulted in the Magnuson-Stevens Act in the first place.

It was to get rid of the ships that were in our waters illegally fishing our stocks and you can tell when they are here because certain pelagics, for instance like the kingfish and the wahoo and the dolphin and the sailfish disappear from our freezers because we don't catch any that season and I can't understand why our government thinks they need a satellite surveillance system to keep track of us and the fact that they have agreed with 70 other nations, not counting the European Union to monitor the oceans on eye level basis from outer space. It's kind of like spy vs. spy at this point, but I know they intend to enforce the law and they have the resources in place to do that without taxing the state law enforcement beyond their ability to perform their job. So those are my concerns. What becomes of them, I lay it in your lap.

George Geiger:

Thank you sir and I did add that we are videotaping these proceedings and every council member, of course, will get a copy of these public comments as they come forward.

George Geiger: Would you state your name and who you're representing?

John Porlella: Yeah, John Porlella. I've lived here in Jacksonville about 17 years. I don't understand where it all comes about or how it comes about, but I've been fishing down here about 15 years and in the beginning grouper was 20 inches. You guys raised it to 24. Now, I barely ever catch a 20 inch grouper anymore. The fishing has been phenomenal last five or six years. This year and last year snapper has gone through the roof due to limit. Vermillion snapper, I was out two weeks ago and I would have put 40 of them on the boat. I stopped at 20 and they were all three, three and a half pound vermillion snapper and I left them biting. I didn't want to take that many home. I had a lot of people on the boat and I could have limited out with no problem.

You guys are gonna destroy a lot of people's lives here. You're gonna hurt the commercial fisherman. You're gonna hurt the headboats, the charterboat captains. I'm just a simple fisherman. I'm not like these guys. There's guys in this room I couldn't even compare to fish with, but you're gonna hurt them. You're gonna take their livelihoods away and I think its damn wrong! I really do. I think it's wrong. You guys just sit up there in your towers and you sit behind your desk and you decide, "This is what we're gonna do. To hell with the people. We're gonna do it and that's it." I think you guys have already made up your mind. I think you came here already in your mind, "This is what's gonna happen, this is what we're gonna do, we're gonna pass this law, to hell with them." I think its wrong and you can tell them up there and you can write my – you can have my phone number. It's (904) 610-3855. Call me. I'll tell you what I think. It's wrong. It's wrong. Thank you.

George Geiger: Thank you, sir.

Good afternoon, George. My name is Joe Tooker and I'm a local recreational fisherman out of St. John's River. The name of the boat is the Easy Money. It's probably a well-known boat. A lot of people fish with me and we predominantly fish for deep water snapper, grouper, wahoo, mahi mahi, a little bit of everything. I moved down here from New York approximately five years ago, not really knowing too much about bottom fishing, but had the good ability to go out there and find fish, find wrecks, find structure and see what was on them.

The first trip I ever went out of, we limited out on snapper and I was floored. I've never caught a red snapper before and here I go catching a limit in a fish up to 15 to 18 pounds. It was unbelievable. Me and my crew were just ecstatic and that's continued for the past three years since I bought my boat where we're catching limit after limit after limit. We're releasing fish. I started finding wrecks within three or four miles of the beach, catching limit of keeper snapper. That's unheard of to see it that close to the beach when I talk to my counterparts over on the West Coast of Florida.

I'm just looking at the data in the hearing in the room over there. The data seems a little fishy just like this fishery is. There's not enough concrete information to go from the stock is in okay condition to going into really bad shape and we need to do a complete closure. I think along the lines of all these other guys that do this for a living, closing the fishery is just – it's gonna be detrimental to everybody. I mean not only people in the fishing community, but other industries and other businesses that receive a portion of the income, for example, the fuel companies, the gas stations that are open at 5:00 in the morning that receive hundreds upon hundreds of boats filling up ungodly amounts of money right now, but people still go out there and fish. It's a livelihood for some people and it's a recreation for others and I hate to see that close.

I've never been contacted by any marine fisheries personnel about the status of my fishing trips, how we did or how we didn't do or what the condition of the fishes were. I think that kind of information would be valuable. I'd be happy to take anybody out on my boat at any time. Everybody knows that I'm an easygoing guy on the boat and we like to have a good time and catch fish and stay within the limits as well. I mean I'm probably one of the only guys – I am a stickler for the limits. We do not keep any fish over the limit and once we catch our limit, we move onto another fishery to fish for.

I just hate to see the snapper close and I'd be willing to give any information that anybody would want. I'm willing to offer up my boat for free fishing trips if that's what its going to take, but I'm willing to takes to make a proper assessment of this stock.

Yeah, Kirk Caupain. Christopher's Joy is the name of the vessel. I'm just a bit concerned because I mean the fishing industry is my livelihood and with all these regulations, closing things down, it's really hurting us. I mean the shrimp, that's getting kicked out. I mean the snapper – I mean the way it's regulated is just putting a damper on our business. I mean we can't tie our boats up. I mean this thing right now with the fuel prices the way they are is just really, it's hurting everybody. So what do you do? A person that's got a boat is sitting there at the dock not being able to fish. What do we do? That's just my concern and I really think they really need to rethink these things and do something about it.

George Geiger: Julie, I'm going to include the - why don't you hold your _____?

Kirk Waltz: Okay.

George Geiger: Can you see it?

George Geiger: I can see it.

George Geiger: Let me start off this presentation with the picture. He wants to get it on record or you can keep that. Go ahead and start. Identify yourself.

Kirk Waltz: My name is Captain Kirk Waltz. I'm a fishing guide out of Mayport, Florida. I also co-host a radio talk show program in town called the Outdoor Show. We've been in production for 11 years, have done some national TV. shows for ESPN and both locally here on a local broadcast level. I have lived in North Florida for 25 years, lived in central Florida and Coco Beach for a period of time. I believe in conservation. I'm a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation. I'm a member of CCA. I'm a member of many different conservation organizations all over the country, National Rifle Association, and I believe in conservation. I think it's very important. I think it's critical that we have a healthy fishery, a healthy game preserve so that when our kids grow up and our grandkids and our great grandkids, we've got something that we can admire when we get older.

But I also believe that in doing so, and again I'm not an educated man. I do not have a college education. I do not have a PhD. All I know is that I've spent my whole life on the ocean and in the woods and I know that it's critical that we take the time to try to grow these resources. But I also know that it's very critical that when we look at these resources we do it properly. I don't know a lot about the SARS surveys and everything else. I'm just a simplistic person and I believe that if we went out dinner, George, you and I, if you order steak and the steak came on the plate, its steak. If I got chicken, I got chicken.

When you go out to a boat ramp and if you walk up to me and go, "Kirk, how many fish did you catch today?" I would reply and tell you approximately what I did to the best of my knowledge in all the years, in the 25 years that I've fished, 13 years professionally as a guide running out of Mayport, I have yet to have anybody ever come up to me at any of these public facilities and say, "What was your catch today?" or had anybody call me. I've done some

redfish surveys for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and have tried to help them with that and their stock assessment with the redfish in the State of Florida because I think it's that important.

I think the snapper is very important. I think the vermillion snapper and the gag grouper is very important. I believe all the fisheries are and I do see from my technical point of view that because we have interrelation between the intercostals environment and the ocean and the fact that they go a lot of times the fish that live in the intercostals go out past the three mile limit. I see that in the very near future that we're going to have to look at those fish too and I'm talking about sheepshead. I'm talking about the red drum, which we call redfish, jack creval, speckle trout. There are a lot of different fish that migrate in and out and I believe that those will all have to be surveyed and they will eventually become part of that umbrella within the national marine fisheries and Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Council. I believe that those will also be surveyed, but I believe in doing this, we need to have the good science and I just don't understand as a simple person, how in all the people that I represent and all the people that call into our radio talk show, I have yet to ever have any one of those people call me and say, "Well, we got a call from the National Marine Fishery Service. They want to go out fishing with us. They want to see how many black sea bass we're catching. They want to see how many triggerfish we're catching. They want to see how many kingfish we're catching," and I don't understand that. I understand that science takes place somewhere, I just don't know where and I believe that the fishery now in the state of Florida and I'm talking north Florida to central Florida in my real of knowledge is as healthy as I've ever seen it in 25 years of living here.

This picture that I brought you guys is a picture of a red snapper that I caught on the Mayport Rocks in November of 2007. It's a 17 inch red snapper. I've fished those rocks for 25 years. I make my living, as you can see in the picture, there's a trolling motor on the bow of this boat. This is a bay boat. This is not an offshore boat. I make my living on these rocks and in 25 years I never caught a red snapper out there and that's how prolific the species of snapper is in our north Florida waters. I go out now and do guided trips five miles off the coast and I can catch my limit and I never could go that before. I used to dive out here and see big schools of them. In the last three or four years, it's quite incredible and to catch this, my customers were floored and so was I. I could

have smiled a little better in the picture, but it's just incredible to see that.

Having the opportunity to do what I do for a living is really special and to go out there and see all the wildlife and be able to pass that on to generations and pass that on to people that come in from the out of state, other states, out of the state of Florida and enjoy that – that's special. But I think we need to be really careful with this whole issue. The thing that we're getting ready to do right now, if we close this fishery and we haven't taken the time to really analyze this carefully, the economic impacts its going to have on my business – its going to hurt. It's going to hurt people like George Strate and Scott Reynolds and the party boats. It's going to have an impact on the marine selling end of it, the boat manufacturers, the outboard manufacturers, the tackle manufacturers, the small mom and pop bait and tackle shops.

In the world that we live in right now with the country teetering on a major recession, banks folding, the cost of gasoline going up, if we're not careful, so many thousands and thousands of people are going to be hurt by this thing if we don't do the right thing. I'm not saying that we shouldn't do something, limit it to one fish, increase the sot to 21 inches, but don't close it. If you close the snapper, vermillion, gag grouper fishery, I think it's going to impact so many people. I think you're going to have a real big collapse. I think you're going to have a domino effect. The boat industry right now, the boat manufacturers that I work with, Pathfinder, Hughes, Maverick, all these people are getting really dicey. Seafox, Hydrosport. I mean these companies are going to fold and thousands upon thousands of people are going to lose their jobs. We need to be really careful with these assessments. We need to be really careful with what we will do with the information that we have provided.

I know I talked to the other gentleman in the other room and God bless you guys. I know you guys work hard. I know you don't get paid a lot of money doing what you do. I know you have to give up valuable family time away from your families to come to Florida to talk to us, but its as critical as the importance of your job and if you went home tomorrow and they said, "George, sorry. We don't need you anymore." How would you deal with that? How would you tell your family? That's just my take on the whole situation. I appreciate you guys. I appreciate the work that you're doing. I just hope that we take the time to do this carefully. Thank you, George.

George Geiger: Thank you and I hope you stick around and we can talk about it.

Mark Williams. I represent Fisher Magician Enterprises, Inc. I have two commercial boats and a charter boat. Greg, I could sit up here and talk to you about data, but I've got, excuse me George, I've got 23 years coming in here. I'm not going to burn your ear on any data thing. I will try to appeal to your conservation sense because I do understand you are past president of the CCA and like I have spoke at these meetings for about a little over two decades here now, and *still* never see anything on those screens with the positive adjustment that we're going to give to all these fisherman, commercial and recreational.

We never see a man from the county of where our council comes, you never mandate that the man that signs the permits to fill in all the nursery areas and all the saw grass and all the BS trade offs. "Oh if we take this land here, we'll give you some back over here." I still don't see any positive adjustment here. I'm blue in the face here, 23rd year George. Are you the man to get in there and understand that this needs to be finally looked into? You want to talk about bait? There's the start of it, the juvenile fish and the bait, both of them in the saw grass and the mud mountains, etc., so on and so forth, alright?

Got enough money, you build your bulkhead. You buy an island of marsh landing, get whatever you want, but you're still taking away from us and once again we're here decades after decades sitting here trying to save our livings and our livelihoods because I'm very diversified in the fishing world. I build custom fishing rods. I make leaders. We pour sinkers, over 2,000 items. Are you friends of Mark and Jeff down there? You're from Sebastian I understand? Well, you've gotta be friends with Mark and Jeff. I've done business with Mark and Jeff about 25 years. That's how long I've been in this industry.

So if you want to write down on your pad when ya'll get to – because I understand you're just the messenger. We've heard this since this new millennium here and the non-objectivity on this council that was lost from all the objectivity and wonderful, wonderful council we had in the '90s barring ____ Master and our little local issue here and the powerheads and all that BS that was a little bit too much backdoor politics because I'm the one that still preaches sound responsible professional fishery management and if you want to sit here in front of me and be anything but professional when it comes to taking away my fish, then you're gonna have a bad, bad, row to hoe and you better give use a positive adjustment for filling in. You better mandate that every time you come into a new county that the fella from the city or maybe the mayor is there – that that's where it needs to start. Not all of our, "Oh, we'll redo this," because the other thing that's gonna happen, we're all sitting here – it don't matter what the new stuff is that's gonna go into effect after the new year and hurt us all because when it's not right, the people with the money, the environmentalists that they don't have any control over because like Mr. Darnier said, it's a political fight, we don't have this kind of money or this kind of time, but they do. And when they're not happy or satisfied they will continue. It's just like this here. We sat here and fought against any of this grouper closure. You took it off the overfish list and in two years before the rewrite of that act, you were back trying to take away.

Now, you want to add more months into the closure, which is actually, totally, unacceptable. None. You should have never had the first closure. You want to take the bag limit away? You go ahead, but that's about all we're gonna give because I don't know if the money has been brought up, but I do understand that there is a lot of little murmurings where the politics has to get done here and I don't care if the council goes away and we save that money. If NMFS has to be here in front of me – I don't give a damn about ya'll and your money and what you're getting paid. All of ya'll can be gone and we can deal straight with NMFS because that's where the problem is. This, "Oh, don't hurt the messenger. Don't touch me!" We, as fisherman, like somebody like me that has been bombarded 23 years and every act you make costs me money, we don't care anymore. We don't care if you're gone. We want sound, responsible, professional fishery management and that's all there is to it. Three key simple words. For 23 years, there's no positive adjustment to the fisherman and you have filled in nursery areas that destroy and deplete bait and the fish from Key West to North Carolina, all four states, not just ours. That's all I've got to say because I'm not gonna rehash anymore.

Good evening. My name is Mike Beckman. I've been a resident of Florida for 44 years, recreational fisherman. I've been fishing in the Jacksonville area since I was a kid. One of the things that I look at is I'm very concerned about the stock assessment and some of the information I've received. Reading the Florida Sportsman, I've seen where it's been challenged specifically by Dr. Bob Ship. I don't know the scientific aspects of that, but I think it's something that we need to look at. We look at the mortgage industry right now and the troubles that they are having, the government having to spend so much money bailing them out. I think we need, before we move further with these proposals that we look and see at the financial impact that it's going to have on the fishing industry in the state of Florida and the other states that will be affected by this.

I think when you talk about people losing their jobs and bait shops closing up because people just aren't going to go fishing, with the cost of gas – I just fished a kingfish tournament and I've got a small boat and I've spend about \$350.00. That's a lot of money that's coming out of my family and if I can't run offshore and catch a decent limit of fish, enough to feed my family, I'm not going to go. That's a big financial impact and when I don't go fishing, these people that are selling the boats, making the motors, selling the trailers, selling the tackle, its going to close down and I think that its going to be such a severe impact to the industry that the lost taxes for the government, I think that they need to consider that where those lost monies to the federal government, I think it would be a better interest to spend some of that money now and let's get a true stock assessment, something that everybody can agree on and say, "Yeah this is correct." I think if we don't spend a little money, its going to cost a lot of money and hurt people. That's all I have to say.

Morris Anderson. I have no outside affiliation. I'm a lifelong resident. I live in Jacksonville, Florida. I have fished out of Mayport offshore since about 1972 and in the last five years the fishing has been better than I've ever seen it in my life. Vermillion snapper, I can limit out in 30 minutes any day of the week and I invite any board member or council member that would like to go at my expense. I'm not a charter captain. I'm an individual. I will take them fishing on my personal boat and I will show them how many fish is available. The data that they are using is not correct. It cannot be correct. There's too many fish. That's all I have to say. Thank you, sir.

My name is Peter Kovacic and I am with Jacksonville Offshore Club. Just a little comment about a suggestion; why doesn't the officer of FWC actually have a column that he can go check when he checks people to say how many vermillion snappers people caught and how many groupers and collect the data and then contact you with those so you would probably have a more accurate reading than just – he probably checks I don't know how many hundred people a day, so you would have the sort of data of what people are catching or not. That's all I have to say.

Rick Miller: Hey there, Rick Miller. I live here in St. John's County. I'm just a recreational guy, not a charter captain or anything like that. Just from what – I've just been following the issue and just talking to friends and like that and sat in on the –

George Geiger: And the issue you're talking about is red snapper?

Rick Miller: Uh, no.

George Geiger: Gag?

Rick Miller: Yeah, the gag grouper and vermillion. Just listening to all the people talking about it and the guy next door giving the presentation, it sounds like he's not even very sure of the data or it seems like the real question mark or the cloud here is how accurate the data is that all these decisions are being based on; decisions that are going to cost people millions of dollars, people their livelihood. It all comes down to being able to fund these studies or I guess they have to get their data from somewhere and that data is not very robust. I just don't understand why we can't take some time and fund a very thorough study; why we can't get better answers before we make these decisions that are going to affect everybody and affect me. I'm not gonna lose my livelihood, but it will definitely stop me from fishing probably. That was it.

George Geiger: Thank you.

Mark Collins:

My name is Captain Mark Collins. I've been a lifelong resident here in northeast Florida. I've fished my whole life. I'm an avid scuba diver and I wanted to come down here and just let you know it seems to me that all of this is based on the data and the fish assessment _____ diver. Oh okay. As an avid diver, we've got more red snapper than I've ever seen in my lifetime and I just don't understand where the assessments are lining up. The grouper seem to be doing pretty well as well and I just can't see you shutting down a fishery when there is more than enough fish there. It seems to me that people are being penalized and quite honestly, I don't think that's fair.

Like I say, I understand that ya'll have a job to do and I'm all for conservation. I'd like to make sure that these fish and whatnot are out there for my kids and my grandkids. Like I said, if something needs to be done, maybe we need to look at the biology a little bit more because, like I say, from I am visually seeing being out in the water – I mean we dive spots now where we call folks that are fishing up and tell them, "If you want snapper, here they are." And these are not just short fish; they're nice fish. My question is why make everyone suffer when it seems to me there needs to be some more research done here because I just don't see where – I mean I understand, like I say, that it's a fine line between saying how much is enough and how much is too much, but it seems to me that in your effort to protect these species that you're going overboard with it.

So, like I say, I mean that's my concern because I'm physically out there in the water and there's more fish around today than there has been, especially with the red snapper. I mean it's a great fishery. It used to be that we'd spend all day to get a limit. Today when you find them, it don't take any time at all and like I say, that's just my concern because as everyone has expressed, this is gonna affect a lot of people, not just recreationally, but financially as well and I think that the whole picture needs to be looked at, not just from one end of it. That's really about what I gotta say. I appreciate what ya'll do and I hope that we can come to a place of a happy medium here.

Male:

Thank you sir and anybody here, I encourage you to contact our office staff in Charleston. All you have to do is call the telephone number, the office telephone number. It's an 800 number, or an 888 number, 800 number, and ask for the staff biologist in charge of red snapper or the **Sedar** Administrator and either one of those two guys can help explain and walk you through the process. I can do it here if you want to wait until there is a break in the crowd and

I can talk to you about that in depth, how the stock assessment is prosecuted and everything that leads up to it, but I encourage you to contact the staff. That's what they are there for and they ask questions. The stock assessment is on the website. It's not something that you probably are going to be able to understand which is why I ask you to contact the staff biologist and have them walk you through and explain to you. It's not an arbitrary process, I can assure you. If you want to stick around, we'll talk about it afterwards.

Mark Collins: Alright, thank you.

[End of Audio]

My name is Rick Ryals. I work for Florida Sports and Magazine. I've been a lifelong resident and fisherman in Northeast Florida and Mr. Geiger, something you said a little earlier concerned me. I may have misunderstood, but I thought I heard you say that nobody is a big fan of regulation. I'm not sure that's right, but I can tell you that the biggest fans of fisheries regulations anywhere around may be the men in this room. I've fished here since the late 60's and I've seen the boom times of red snapper and I've seen the collapse of red snapper and I saw in 1992 when size limits started coming in and bag limits started getting tighter, I started seeing the comeback of red snapper, vermillion snapper.

I'm concerned about gag grouper and I think we've got some very tough questions here we have to look at and it may involve a closure for all of us. I don't see any such problems for either red snapper or vermillion snapper. They are the best now that they have been in quite some time, both species, size, numbers. We're catching more big vermilion than we've caught in a long time and I can tell you that anywhere from the cape up through Jacksonville on up through the coast, when you're looking at a closure of having gag grouper, red snapper, and vermillion snapper, all close in the first six months of the year, you're talking about a *devastating* economic impact. There are boat builders, there's tackle shops, there's party boats like Captain George. There's all these people that can exist and flourish with regulations, but cannot continue to do business under a total closure. So I ask you to look back at your science. There's an error somewhere because I'm telling you I was the biggest fan of going to two snapper and the biggest fan of going to smaller red snapper, the biggest fan of going to 12 inch vermilion.

Your measures are doing an excellent job. Our fishing is good and more important, it's improving. So what we need here is to step back and take a look and delay actions such as a closure on vermillion snapper and get better data because whatever is showing you that vermillion snapper is going to collapse is wrong. You need to understand that before you go forward with shutting down and putting an awful lot of boat builders, tackle shops, party boats, charter boats, recreational fisherman, putting us all out of business or out of our hobby. Thank you very much.

Rob Darner:

My name is Rob Darner. My address is 334 Van Gogh Circle, Ponte Vida, Florida 32081. Do you need the phone number? Okay. I'm here on behalf of myself, a recreational fisherman and my family. A couple points I'd like to make is 1) we did question over there at the workshop on your statistical models and one of the things that I'd like to focus upon is the sampling via phone samples. Lord knows since 1984, living up here in northeast Florida, I myself have not ever been contacted via phone sample and what seems to come out of that discussion is I doubt if a lot of my other folks have ever been contacted via a phone sample as well. A way to get a better target group – the state of Florida has a saltwater fishing license. You ought to apply and seek their data. They said that is not a “perfect” ideal data base because we don't include the people under 16 nor do we include the people over 65; however, it seems to be a little bit more accurate than on target to the current let's make a random selection out of the phone book.

So I would suggest that you take a look at all four states on their required saltwater fishing license and see if you can gender a deal in order to get a more accurate database. I think, therefore, your data collection would be more accurate in the long run.

Secondly, coming out of there, talk about quota regulations and drops, what I did learn about seems like that North Carolina and South Carolina had a lot of removal, at least on the commercial side, of their biomass on the grouper and yet it seems like Georgia and Florida were getting more of a punishment on terms of gag regulation. Now, the other thing as I've said, part of the scoping means Orlando, Florida for the red snapper. I wish you guys would do more scoping meetings, particularly attend to the Northeast Florida as we are a large section of what goes on. That I would appreciate. The other thing I wish you folks would consider, which was not mentioned and I did mention this eight years ago as part of the MPA discussion as a way to correct some of the overfishing, is we have such wonderful management tools in other stocks that we can assess and if we look at the spotted sea trout, which is a local governed by the state, that biology lends a lot to the grouper, slow-growing fish, long-time living fish.

Look at what we do here. We have a slot limit. We have a season closure for those particular fish. I think kind of the same thing needs to apply to at least some of the grouper. I said it eight years ago and I'll probably still recommend the same thing. Slot size the fish. We know that as recreational people, we target trophy-sized fish. We know those are the breeding stock, particularly the males. Most of the small fish that we catch are females. We have a lot

more females than we do males. We need to protect the males out there. Slot size them. Let them go and create what I've learned from some of the biologists, the harems that go and when gag groupers get together for spawning, its very easy to go and wipe them out in one fell swoop. They need to be protected from doing that. So I'm not disagreeing with the spawning closure. So spawning closures are a good thing. We have it with sea trout. We need to have it with grouper.

I do believe we need to have a slot limit to protect the big and the young and at least to get at least a reproduction cycle if not two out of the female sized grouper. That's what I'd like to see. As for your quotas – that date seems to be flawed all over the place. I think more reasonable and attuned statistical models would be much better off and I think when people realize that and the energy that you put into it, either plaster that all over the website, send it out in your quarterly newspapers again and again and again, people get the idea that you're really trying on our behalves. Yes sir? Okay, I think that's about all that I have.

George Geiger: Okay, the stock assessment is for every stock that is managed by the council is also on the website under SEDAR, which is the stock assessment process. Just briefly, in spawning season, the season closure son seat rout are not for spawning seasons, they were just arbitrarily decided by the FWC to compensate for the reductions in commercial closures during what used to be an open season to reducing it to a three month opening, just as information.

Rob Darner: Okay.

George Geiger: MRFSS – does anybody else in here have any qualms with the MRFSS program, which is the recreational sampling program that he alluded to? Do you want to hear about them?

[crosstalk]

George Geiger: Ho, ho! Stop! All I asked for was a yes or no. Let me explain some MRFSS information and what I want to do is just go off record. Yeah stop it.

Scott Reynolds: Captain Scott Reynolds, Mayport Charter Boat King Neptune.

George Geiger: And Scott does not have a card, so we'll try to get one. Go head, sir.

Scott Reynolds: Well actually I've been sitting her for about 30 minutes because I worked until 5:00 today. I don't know who sets these meetings for these times, but I've missed everything beforehand, so I don't know really what all has been said, but –

George Geiger: Just so you know, we _____.

Scott Reynolds: Yeah, I know, but I can see everybody else is prepared and they've already done what they're gonna do. As far as the red snapper goes, we've been through this over and over again and it's just to the point of being redundancy. They are flourishing stronger than I've ever seen them. I currently have filed taxes with the King Neptune since 1984, been an employee for 24 years there. Now I own and operate the business. Currently, I have a brand new boat being built that's supposed to be turned out here in a month, which had I known all this stuff was going down one year ago, I wouldn't have touched it with a 10-foot pole, but now I'm in it. As you've heard from plenty of other people, the economic – the destruction that this will bring to the fishing industry itself if you were to have these closures is just – the scope of it is so wide its unbelievable and like they were saying before, there's a lot of – if you can't take people out to go fishing and have a reasonable chance of catching something that's worth catching to take home, like I said, what's the point?

But the thing is that it should be the right of the people of Florida and everybody else that visits to be able to go fishing and the closures are just not good for anybody. I don't understand why there is – is there even a possibility of reducing to one per person on recreational? Is that a possibility?

George Geiger: Is that a recommendation you're making?

Scott Reynolds: Over a closure, absolutely. Just – I mean since this whole, since the new regulations came in effect of the 20 inches, we saw these fish, which were basically they were no fish at all back when this first came in.

George Geiger: Let me ask a question. You're talking about a one fish per person bag limit for red snapper or for everything or for what?

Scott Reynolds:

For red snapper, yes. For the vermillion snapper, I think six per person or something like that; even five per person would probably be doable, like I said. I don't feel that the closures are necessary at all if you reduce the bag limits by 50%, you should be good to go since the snapper themselves since these limits were implied back whenever it was – I don't even remember what day it was at this point or what year, but the fact that they did come back and they are in numbers with those two per person and unlimited bag limits on commercial, it would stand to reason that just by reducing to one per person would at least – you've cut the recreational by 50% already and as I've said back in Orlando a month and a half ago, as far as the closures throughout the time of the year, a lot of these trips, a lot of – I know for ourselves, the days of fishing with 20 passengers and stuff is over. We can't afford to do it. The fuel won't allow it.

So there's gonna be a lot of reduction from other angles anyways, but what I'm trying to say is I would like to at least hear that that is an option of one per person or something like that and I haven't even heard that at all. I don't understand why we go from one extreme to another. The same thing happened and it's like I hate to even bring it up, but like the red bass was a one per person with a slot, yet you're allowed 10 trout per person. I don't understand what's so special about the red bass and once something happens, it never seems to come back. Red bass are more plentiful than they've ever been in that ocean, not the ocean, but the river. Like I said, the snapper, they are stronger than I have ever seen them and the years that I have worked in that business for 25 years. To look at a total closure would just be totally devastating to a lot of people including me. As far as, like I said, I am totally against closures. I'd rather see bag limits change, size increases, whatever, anything but a closure. All it does is create more pressure on other fisheries and I guess that's all I've got to say.

George Geiger:

Thank you, sir. Anybody else?

Good afternoon. My name is Shawn Dick and I'm the president and CEO of Aquatic Release Conservation, otherwise known as ARC. I want to thank the council for allowing us the opportunity to make public comments on this important South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Draft Snapper Grouper Amendment 16 FMP, additional measures to address overfishing for gag and vermillion snapper. Under reduced bycatch of snapper grouper species, dehooking devices and venting tools, ARC supports the Snapper Grouper Committee's Motion 9 approved. Alternative 3 require the use of dehooking and venting tools. We support the snapper grouper committee Motion 10, which was approved. Make Alternative 3 the preferred alternative and apply to commercial and recreational fisheries.

In previous ARC public comments, we have supported and recommended Alternative 2C, which was preferred; however, after review of the June 2008 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meetings, public comments, and the Snapper Grouper Committee, Motion 9 and 10 which was approved, ARC now supports and recommends proposed Alternative 3 preferred. ARC is convinced that safe hook and gear removal, external _____ ingested and venting techniques will significantly increase post release survival of snapper grouper species by up to as much as 95% in some species. As fishery participants become more proficient in safe use of technologies through education and outreach workshops as well as at-sea practice on multiple species live release, Alternative 3 is not as stringent and is a less intrusive management measure than some other proposed measures such as time area closures. Alternative 3 is consistent with other related FNP's as preferred by industry as a viable method to reduce bycatch mortality and represents a very important management tool that could immediately begin to decrease bycatch mortality and help end over-fishing.

The emergency interim rule: ARC supports the Snapper Grouper Committee Motion 12 approved. Staff developed a letter to the regional administrator requesting the regional office to develop an interim rule that 180 days could be extended once. We agree that an interim rule will avoid delays and implementation of the measures to end over-fishing and reduce bycatch mortality in the snapper grouper fishery. We recommend that Alternative 3 Preferred be included within the proposed interim rule to implement reductions in fishing mortality as specific in the preferred alternatives in Amendment 16 for gag, vermillion, snapper, black grouper, and red grouper.

On the issue of circle hooks, while almost all fisherman anglers support the requirement of venting and dehooking tools to help significantly reduce bycatch mortality, several stakeholders expressed concern about requiring non-stainless steel hooks, especially for yellowtail and gray snapper fisheries in The Keys. Fisherman and Anglers currently use J style hooks with natural baits and there is a valid concern that circle hooks would reduce catches. Enforcement of the requirement for non-stainless steel circle hooks is also a concern. ARC has been a proponent of the use of circle hooks in various other fisheries in order to increase post release survival due to the less serious injury hooking location, which is in the lip or jaw that circle hooks can provide.

However, we are reluctant to support any management measure that would further hinder the ability of fishery participants to maintain a viable and sustainable fishery and thus recommend until further studies of the affects of circle hooks can be conducted in the snapper grouper fishery. Fisherman and anglers should be allowed to use J style hooks, especially with yellowtail and gray snapper fisheries in The Keys. According to the best available data, J style hooks tend to be a bit deeper ingested when swallowed than circle hooks. This deeper ingested hook location may necessitate specifying minimal design standards and functions of dehooking devices that have the ability to safely remove deeper ingested J style hooks without reengagement.

A report from John Foster, Recreational Fisheries Coordinator, Tidewater Administration, DNR Maryland writes, "The dehooker allows for easy and rapid hook removal enhancing a fish's chance for survival after release. Based on research by the Maryland's Fishery Division Fish Health Laboratory, we are recommending that all hooks be removed from the mouth and esophagus of fish, we found that hooks left in fishes gullets do not rust out or fall out as properly thought. There are indications that there may be a high degree of latent mortality associated with hooks left in fish. Hence, removing a deeply placed hook in an efficient and timely manner is imperative as our fishery management requires more releasing of fish and greater emphasis is placed on catch and release fishing. The dehooker hook remover is an excellent and simple tool, which helps anglers to release fish with an excellent chance of survival.

On the issues of pliers and other dehooking technologies: not all dehooking devices provide the same circle and J style hook removal purpose for function, in other words, deeper ingested hook removal or external lip hook removal. The preferred hook removal procedure that will ensure the maximum probability of survival is when you do not have to touch or move the catch from the water, which is considered not boated when dehooking. This prevents removal to damage to the slime barrier, suffocation, and decreases lactic acid build up and stress, thus increasing survivability. Larger are more dangerous. In other words, toothy, spiny, poisonous species should not be removed from water when dehooking. If the catch must be removed from the water which is boated for hook removal and venting, care should be given not to touch the catch or remove any of the slime barrier, which could cause infection and increase bycatch mortality. In order to avoid touching the released species during the hook removal process, the dehooking device held in one hand should be able to effectively engage, capture, and secure the leader held in the other hand and follow that leader down to where the hook is embedded, safely disengage the hook, and allow removal of the hook and the dehooking device without reengagement.

There are several dehooking devices currently available to meet the above-mentioned Gulf of Mexico Amendment 27-14, minimal design standards and functions. Most of these dehooking devices have been field trialed, observed, and documented to work properly and safely in the snapper grouper fisheries. From best experience and observation, pliers and some other dehooking devices do not meet the minimal design specifications and functions that would be necessary to remove either an ingested circle hook or a deeper ingested J style hook. The use or the function of pliers and some other

dehooking tools require the fisherman angler to hold the fish in one hand when removing the hook, thus touching the fish and possibly removing or damaging the protective slime coating.

Although some of these dehookers and pliers have been a useful tool for removing some types of hooks that are lipped external hooked, they do not perform the function of safe ingested hook removal in most cases nor do they meet the minimal design standards and should not be classified as required dehookers. Pliers have been on board vessels for many decades and anglers and fisherman have used them in the past to successfully remove hooks from some hooking locations, mainly lip-hooked fish. The past documented reduction in bycatch mortality observed in the snapper grouper fishery is reflective of plier's leveled efficiency for removing deeper ingested hooks and would not be expected to significantly increase an efficiency in the future.

Minimal design standards specifications and functions: The Gulf of Mexico Amendment 27-14 final FMP defines a dehooking device and venting tool as follows: dehooking device means a device intended to remove a hook embedded in a fish to release the fish with minimal damage. Dehooking devices and vending tools are commonly available at fishing tackle outlets or may be made by the fisherman. ARC recommends remaining consistent with the Gulf of Mexico Amendment 27-14 specifications of a dehooking device, would be required to be constructed to allow the hook to be secured and the barb shielded without reengagement during the removal process. That would require the dehooking end to be blunt and all edges around it. The device would have to be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used in the reef fish fishery.

Specifications of a venting tool, at least one venting tool would need to be on board to deflate the swim bladders of a reef fish that fishermen intend to release. This tool would need to be a sharpened hollow instrument such as a hypodermic syringe with the plunger removed or a 16 gauge needle fixed to a hollow wooden dowel. Use of a tool such as a knife or an ice pick would not be permissible.

In conclusion, Amendment 16 is consistent to the extent practical with the recently implemented Amendment 27-14, Amendment 18A, the Sharp FNP, the 2004 Sea Turtle Final Rule, and Proposed Amendment 15B as well as with the national standards of the Magnuson-Stevenson Act. In ARC's professional opinion, the proper and timely use of dehooking devices and venting tool technologies will rapidly and significantly increase post release survival in the snapper grouper fisheries as much as up to 95% for some species. These type of non-intrusive and less stringent management measures are preferred by industry over harsher measures such as time area closures. While almost all stakeholders support the requirement of venting and dehooking tools to help significantly reduce bycatch mortality, several stakeholders expressed concerns about requiring non-stainless steel hooks.

ARC recommends that circle hooks be encouraged and recommended, but not required in this FMP interim rule until further circle hook research is conducted and the benefits determined for this fishery. ARC supports immediate implementation of the interim rule

including requiring dehooking and venting tools. Fishery participants continue to gain a positive feeling of stewardship, accomplishment, and ownership of their fishery as they practice careful handling and release techniques and observe the released species swim away vigorously and safe. The most successful FMP's are those that work cooperatively with all stakeholders from the inception of the plan so that they better understand the problems and dynamics of the fishery and then most importantly, help develop and implement the solutions. Our US fisherman and anglers are some of the most sophisticated and conservation-minded folks in the global fisheries community. They have sacrificed more than any other international fisheries partner to help maintain a viable, sustainable, and environmentally friendly global fisheries.

They should be encouraged, rewarded, and provided incentives to continue their development of bycatch reduction technologies and techniques to end over-fishing. Thank you for allowing ARC to make public comments on this most important Amendment 16 FMP. I hope that some of our comments have helped in some way and in an appropriate manner. Thank you.

Tim Monroe: Okay, yeah my name is Tim Monroe. I'm president and owner of a company called Fish-On Bait Company and we're locally – we're here in Jacksonville Beach. So I'm really making these comments on behalf of our company, but I'm also a recreational fisherman and obviously it goes without saying that I'm in favor of any regulations that protect species gag grouper, red snapper, and if the species are being over-fished I'm all for implementing regulations to prevent overfishing.

With that said, I would like to say a couple of things. First of all, on the sampling techniques that are used on the recreational side, I think everybody agrees that the commercial boats and the headboat sampling is pretty organized and the numbers are probably very close, but on the recreational side, the two methods are very vague. The phone sampling is, as far as I'm concerned, ridiculous, and in listening to the seminar next door, I would recommend that National Marine Fisheries who even offered to collect data, that that would be a far superior means of more accurate numbers.

George Geiger: You said, what would be a more accurate means?

Tim Monroe: National Marine Fisheries reporting what they view when they stop recreational boats as opposed to phone surveys from somebody that doesn't know anything about fishing and comments from people that for the most part are probably gonna lie to a survey. I mean National Marine Fisheries is the one group that is on the water on a regular basis. That's the group we see as recreational fisherman.

George Geiger: You mean the Florida Wildlife Conservation?

Tim Monroe: Excuse me, I meant Fish and Wildlife, right. What did I say? National Marine Fisheries.

George Geiger: You said National Marine Fisheries.

Tim Monroe: Right, I mean Fish and Wildlife, right. That is the group and the gentleman there in the back said when we're filling out our form we can most certainly put another line there and describe what we saw. So that just makes sense. I mean everybody agrees that the recreational numbers are skewed, so okay.

George Geiger: Go ahead and finish, but I would love to – I'd like to discuss this first business with you before you leave here.

Tim Monroe:

Okay, also I made the comment in the other room that because of the fuel prices, we know it's a fact that recreational fishing offshore is off at least 40% based on the higher fuel prices and commercial is probably off in the vicinity of 20%. I can say that with some authority because we sell a lot of bait. We sell – I believe we are the largest recreational bait supplier in the country and probably the second largest in the southeast. Our numbers basically do not lie. We take projections as far forward as next year and we know that our current sales on the recreational side, specifically on sardines, Spanish sardines, which is the bait of choice for snapper and grouper, are off 40% because of higher fuel prices. Commercially, they're off at least 20%. If this goes through, commercial is most probably gonna be off by larger numbers than what you're showing because those fish houses and those boats will not be able to stay in business with reduced numbers.

Now, I'm all for getting to those numbers and based on that, I would say that Alternative number 3A, which is from what I understand, the minimal closure period of March and April on the commercial side would be probably the best option because it is only for a period of two months and that would be the least amount of damage. On the recreational side, I would suggest limiting the number of fish on black grouper from five to three and I believe on gag grouper from two to one. So I'm all for limiting the catch on the recreational side. So at least people could continue to go fishing, which obviously from the marinas, from the bait, from all aspects, all the other business that goes with recreational fishing would do the least amount of damage. Just to shut the thing down for four months, a third of the year is devastating.

So I'm all for decreasing the numbers. I wish the recreational numbers were a little more accurate and not taken by surveyors, but I suppose if that's the best numbers you've got, we've gotta go with them. So anyway, those are my comments just that the regulations, the new regulations should be – just create the minimal amount of damage to both the commercial and recreational as possible.

George Geiger:

Okay, thank you.



Aquatic Release Conservation, Inc.

1640 Mason Ave, Unit 180 • Daytona Beach, Florida • 32117 • The United States of America

Phone: (877) 411-4272 • Fax: (386) 274-2228

Email: dehooker@dehooker4arc.com • Website: www.arcdehooker.com

August 06, 2008

Bob Mahood, Executive Director
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Fabor Place Drive
Suite 201 Charleston, SC 29405
SGAmend16SecondPH@safmc.net

Good afternoon,

My name is Shawn Dick and I am president and CEO of Aquatic Release Conservation; otherwise known as A.R.C.

I want to thank the Council for allowing us the opportunity to make Public Comments on this important SAFMC Draft Snapper Grouper Amendment 16 FMP: Additional Measures to Address Overfishing for Gag and Vermillion Snapper.

Under:

Reduce Bycatch of Snapper Grouper Species

Dehooking Devices and Venting Tools

A.R.C. supports the Snapper Grouper Committee's Motion 9 (approved): *Alternative 3. Require the use of Dehooking and Venting tools;*

We support the Snapper Grouper Committee Motion 10 (approved): *Make Alternative 3 the Preferred Alternative and Apply to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries;*

In previous A.R.C. public comments, we have supported and recommended Alternative 2 C (Preferred). However, after review of the June 2008 SAFMC Meetings, public comments, and the Snapper Grouper Committee

Motion 9 & 10, which was approved, A.R.C. now supports and recommends:

***Proposed Alternative 3 (Preferred):** Reduce recreational and commercial bycatch mortality by requiring the following for a person on board a vessel to fish for snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic EEZ: Use of venting and dehooking tools by both commercial and recreational snapper grouper fisheries*

A.R.C. is convinced that safe hook and gear removal (external and ingested) and venting techniques will significantly increase post-release survival of snapper grouper species, by up to as much as 95% in some species, as fishery participants become more proficient in safe use of the technologies through education and outreach workshops, as well as “at sea” practice on multiple species live release.

Alternative 3 is not as stringent and is a less intrusive management measure than some other proposed measures, such as time/area closures. Alternative 3 is consistent with other related FMPs, is preferred by industry as a viable method to reduce bycatch mortality, and represents a very important management tool that could immediately begin to decrease bycatch mortality and help end overfishing.

Emergency/Interim Rule

A.R.C. supports the Snapper Grouper Committee Motion 12 (approved): *Staff develops a letter to the Regional Administrator requesting the Regional Office develop an interim rule of 180 days (could be extended once).*

We agree that an interim rule will avoid delays in implementation of measures to end overfishing and reduce bycatch mortality in this snapper grouper fishery.

We recommend that Alternative 3 (Preferred) be included within the proposed interim rule to implement reductions in fishing mortality as specified in the preferred alternatives in Amendment 16 for gag, vermillion snapper, black grouper, and red grouper.

Circle Hooks

While almost all fishermen and anglers support the requirement of venting and dehooking tools to help significantly reduce bycatch mortality, several stakeholders expressed concern about requiring non-stainless steel hooks, especially for yellowtail and grey snapper fisheries in the Keys. Fishermen and anglers currently use J-style hooks with natural baits and there is a valid concern that circle hooks would reduce catches. Enforcement of the requirement for non-stainless circle hooks is also a concern.

A.R.C. has been a proponent of the use of circle hooks in various other fisheries in order to increase post-release survival, due to the less serious injury hooking location (lip or jaw) that circle hooks can provide.

However, we are reluctant to support any management measure that would further hinder the ability of fishery participants to maintain a viable and sustainable fishery, and thus recommend;

Until further studies of the effects of circle hooks can be conducted in the snapper grouper fishery, fishermen and anglers should be allowed to use J-style hooks, especially within the yellowtail and grey snapper fisheries in the Keys.

According to the best available data, J-style hooks tend to be a bit deeper ingested (swallowed) than circle hooks. This deeper ingested hook location may necessitate, specifying minimal design standards and functions of dehooking devices that have the ability to safely remove deeper ingested J-style hooks, without re-engagement.

John W. Foster, III (Recreational Fisheries Coordinator-Tidewater Administration), DNR Maryland writes:

"I have been using and promoting your Dehookers as the most effective tool I have used for removing single hooks from any place in the fish's mouth and esophagus. The Dehooker allows for easy and rapid hook removal, enhancing a fish's chances of survival after release. Based on research by Maryland Fisheries Division's Fish Health Laboratory, we are recommending that all hooks be removed from the mouth and esophagus of fish. We found that hooks left in the fish's gullets do not rust out or fall out as popularly thought. There are indications that there may be a high degree of latent mortality associated with hooks left in fish. Hence, removing a deeply placed hook in an efficient and timely manner is imperative as our fisheries management requires more releasing of fish and greater emphasis is placed on catch and release fishing. The Dehooker hook remover is an excellent and simple tool which helps anglers to release fish with an excellent chance of survival."

Pliers and Other Dehooking Technologies

Not all dehooking devices provide the same circle and J-style hook removal purpose or function (e.g., deeper ingested hook removal and external/lip hook removal).

The preferred hook removal procedure that will ensure the maximum probability of survival is when you do not have to touch or remove the catch from the water (not-boated) when dehooking. This prevents removal or damage of the slime barrier, suffocation, and decreases lactic acid build-up and stress, thus increasing survivability. Larger or more dangerous (i.e. teathy, spiny, poisonous, etc.) should not be removed from the water when dehooking.

If the catch must be removed from the water (boated) for hook removal and venting, care should be given not to touch the catch and remove any of the slime barrier, which could cause infection and increase bycatch mortality.

In order to avoid touching the released species during the hook removal process, the dehooking device (held in one hand) should be able to effectively engage, capture and secure the leader (held in the other hand), then follow that leader down to where the hook is embedded, safely disengage the hook, and allow removal of the hook and dehooking device without re-engagement.

There are several dehooking devices currently available that meet the above mentioned GOM Amendment 27-14 minimal design standards and functions. Most of these dehooking devices have been field trialed, observed and documented to work properly and safely in the snapper grouper fisheries.

From our best experience and observations, pliers and some dehooking devices do not meet the minimal design specifications and functions that would be necessary to remove either an ingested circle hook or a deeper ingested J-style hook. The use/function of pliers and some dehooking tools requires the fisherman and angler to hold the fish in one hand when removing the hook, thus touching the fish and possibly removing or damaging the protective slime coating.

Although some of these dehookers and pliers have been a useful tool for removing some types of hooks that are lip/external hooked, they do not perform the function of safe ingested hook removal in most cases, nor do

they meet the minimal design standards, and should not be classified as required dehookers.

Pliers have been on board vessels for many decades and anglers and fishermen have used them in the past to successfully remove hooks from some hooking locations (mainly lip hooked fish). The past documented reduction in bycatch mortality observed in the snapper grouper fishery is reflective of pliers' level of efficiency for removing deeper ingested hooks and would not be expected to significantly increase in efficiency in the future.

Minimal Design Standard Specifications and Functions

The GOM Amendment 27-14 Final FMP defines a dehooking device and venting tool as follows:

Dehooking device means a device intended to remove a hook embedded in a fish to release the fish with minimum damage.

Dehooking devices and venting tools are commonly available at fishing tackle outlets, or may be made by the fishermen. A.R.C. recommends remaining consistent with the GOM Amendment 27-14 specifications of a dehooking device; *"would be required to be constructed to allow the hook to be secured and the barb shielded without re-engaging during the removal process. That would require the dehooking end to be blunt, and all edges rounded. The device would have to be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used in the reef fish fishery."*

Specifications of a venting tool: At least one venting tool would be needed onboard to deflate the swim bladders of reef fish that fishermen intend to release. *"This tool would need to be a sharpened, hollow instrument, such as a hypodermic syringe with the plunger removed, or a 16-gauge needle fixed to a hollow wooden dowel..."* Use of a tool such as a knife or an ice-pick would not be permissible

CONCLUSION

Amendment 16 is consistent, to the extent practicable, with the recently implemented Amendment 27-14, Amendment 18A, Shark FMP, 2004 Sea Turtle Final Rule and proposed Amendment 15B, as well as with the National Standards of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

In A.R.C.'s professional opinion, the proper and timely use of dehooking device and venting tool technologies will rapidly and significantly increase post-release survival in the snapper grouper fishery, as much as up to 95% for some species. These types of non-intrusive and less stringent management measures are preferred by industry over harsher measures such as time/area closures.

While almost all stakeholders support the requirement of venting and dehooking tools to help significantly reduce bycatch mortality, several stakeholders expressed concern about requiring non-stainless steel hooks. A.R.C. recommends that circle hooks be encouraged and recommended, but not required in this FMP and interim rule until further circle hook research is conducted and the benefits determined for this fishery.

ARC supports immediate implementation of an interim rule, including required dehooking and venting tools. Fishery participants continue to gain a positive feeling of stewardship, accomplishment, and ownership of their fishery as they practice careful handling and release techniques and observe the released species swim away vigorously and safe.

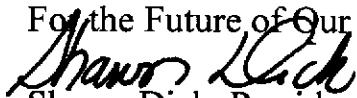
The most successful FMPs are those that work cooperatively with all stakeholders from the inception of the plan, so that they better understand the problems and the dynamics of the fishery and then, most importantly, help develop and implement the solutions.

Our U.S. fishermen and anglers are some of the most sophisticated and conservation minded folks in the global fisheries community. They have sacrificed more than any other international fishery partner to help maintain a viable, sustainable, and environmentally friendly global fisheries.

They should be encouraged, rewarded, and provided incentives to continue their development of bycatch reduction technologies and techniques to end overfishing.

Thank you for allowing ARC to make Public Comments on this most important Amendment 16 FMP. I hope that our comments have helped in some way, and in an appropriate manner.

For the Future of Our Fisheries,



Shawn Dick, President/CEO

Aquatic Release Conservation

Mark Collins:

My name is Captain Mark Collins. I've been a lifelong resident here in northeast Florida. I've fished my whole life. I'm an avid scuba diver and I wanted to come down here and just let you know it seems to me that all of this is based on the data and the fish assessment _____ diver. Oh okay. As an avid diver, we've got more red snapper than I've ever seen in my lifetime and I just don't understand where the assessments are lining up. The grouper seem to be doing pretty well as well and I just can't see you shutting down a fishery when there is more than enough fish there. It seems to me that people are being penalized and quite honestly, I don't think that's fair.

Like I say, I understand that ya'll have a job to do and I'm all for conservation. I'd like to make sure that these fish and whatnot are out there for my kids and my grandkids. Like I said, if something needs to be done, maybe we need to look at the biology a little bit more because, like I say, from I am visually seeing being out in the water – I mean we dive spots now where we call folks that are fishing up and tell them, "If you want snapper, here they are." And these are not just short fish; they're nice fish. My question is why make everyone suffer when it seems to me there needs to be some more research done here because I just don't see where – I mean I understand, like I say, that it's a fine line between saying how much is enough and how much is too much, but it seems to me that in your effort to protect these species that you're going overboard with it.

So, like I say, I mean that's my concern because I'm physically out there in the water and there's more fish around today than there has been, especially with the red snapper. I mean it's a great fishery. It used to be that we'd spend all day to get a limit. Today when you find them, it don't take any time at all and like I say, that's just my concern because as everyone has expressed, this is gonna affect a lot of people, not just recreationally, but financially as well and I think that the whole picture needs to be looked at, not just from one end of it. That's really about what I gotta say. I appreciate what ya'll do and I hope that we can come to a place of a happy medium here.

Male:

Thank you sir and anybody here, I encourage you to contact our office staff in Charleston. All you have to do is call the telephone number, the office telephone number. It's an 800 number, or an 888 number, 800 number, and ask for the staff biologist in charge of red snapper or the **Sedar** Administrator and either one of those two guys can help explain and walk you through the process. I can do it here if you want to wait until there is a break in the crowd and

8/1/8

Gearge

Thank You

Always Consider our

Commercial Industry

We Will be Sending
Written Comments

Shrimp Producers Association
Jaime Thomas

I & You
Keshia
Capt. Richard
"A Rocker"
Seafood Inc

I can talk to you about that in depth, how the stock assessment is prosecuted and everything that leads up to it, but I encourage you to contact the staff. That's what they are there for and they ask questions. The stock assessment is on the website. It's not something that you probably are going to be able to understand which is why I ask you to contact the staff biologist and have them walk you through and explain to you. It's not an arbitrary process, I can assure you. If you want to stick around, we'll talk about it afterwards.

Mark Collins: Alright, thank you.

[End of Audio]



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Joseph Tooker

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-699-4448

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

873 Melson Ave Jacksonville FL 32254

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermillion snapper)

YES

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NO

☐

Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

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BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES ☒

NO ☒

Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES ☐

NO ☒



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Kirk Waitz

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1223 RUTH AVE JAX BEACH, FL 32250

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Enterprise Fishing Charters / THE OUTDOORS SHOW

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

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BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

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11105 Old Dixie Hwy. Ponte Vedra FL.

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

~~SG Amendment 16~~ (gag and vermillion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Bill Conner

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904-318-5993

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9327 RIVER SHORES LN

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

GUIDE CAPT.

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
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PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

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YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

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1762 BRANCH VINE DR W. JACKSONVILLE FL 32246

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

JOSFC JACKSONVILLE OFFSHORE SPORT FISHING CLUB

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES



NO



Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES



NO





SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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60 S. Dixie Hwy

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

B+B Trailers & Accs. Inc

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
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YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

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4340 Cogona Drive Jacksonville FL 32250

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

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4855 MOTOR YACHT DRIVE JAX FL 32225

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

GARDEN MOUNTAIN

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
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Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

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BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

KMT Tuna

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

ALAN BATSON

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

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ATLANTIC BEACH, FL 32233

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Michael J. Beckmann

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1800 TIERRA VERDE DR ATLANTIC BEACH FL 32233

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

JEFFERSON

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904 635-1900

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

8068 CHOCO TRAIL JACKSONVILLE FL 32244

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Christopher G. Bortlett

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

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9129 Harrison Ave. Jacksonville FL 32208

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Terry White Fishing Connection

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

(904) 757-2501

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

PO Box 8097 Jacksonville, FL 32239

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Fishing Connection

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

DENNIS C. YOUNG JR

904-565-1767

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

10802 LUANA DR - N JACKSONVILLE FL 32211

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

SEA DANCER CHARTERS

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405
PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD
Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

Dennis O'Hearn

727 692 6502

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

FRA

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Rick Ryals

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-251-3026

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

9020 Heckscher Dr. Jacksonville FL 32226

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Florida Sportsman Magazine

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405
PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD
Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Hubert Weber

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-556-4245

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

95498 Santa Juana Rd Fernandina Bch FL

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Self

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

BECKY HOGAN

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904 514 5200

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

PO Box 331092

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Atlantic Beach FL

32233

Mayport Princess

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermillion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

PETER KOVACIC

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

249-7455

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

2023 Shadon Ln Neptune Beach, FL 32280

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

GARY BURDETTE

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904 233 5243

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

24315 MOSS CREEK LN, PONTEVEDRA, FL 32082

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CCA - No FL CHAPTER

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405
PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD
Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

John W Porcetta

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-610-3855

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

14334 CRYSTAL COVE DR

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

JACKSONVILLE FL 32224

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Capt. BILL STRATE

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-280-9392

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

109 Autumn Pl PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL 32082

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

STRATE FLUSH Fishing CHARTERS

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermillion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

Alton Robey

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

1948 Raley Crk Dr W Jax 32225 *904 334 5265*

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

All Tackle Charters (Mayport)

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the ~~yes~~ box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Tim MONROE

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-241-6008

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

P.O. Box 51411, JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL. 32240

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

2305 BEACH BLVD. SUITE 103
FISH ON BAIT COMPANY - JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL. 32250

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Douglas Gregory

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

FLA Sea Grant

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405
PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD
Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Shawn Dick

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

386
295-8876

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

P.O. Box 730248 Ormond Bch. FL 32172-0248

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Aquatic Release Conservation

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405
PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD
Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Capt George J. Straub

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904 - 821 - 1301

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

331092 Beach Blvd #904 Jax, FL 32224

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Mayport Princess

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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~~Shrimp~~ Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

MORRIS L ANDERSON

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904 - 6455801

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

11434 Motor Yacht Cir South Jacksonville FLA

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Bob Iseley

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

(904) 859-3331

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

17973 Nassau Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32226

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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~~Shrimp~~ Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Bob Houghton

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904 221 9793

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

2115 Ivy/gail Dr E Jacksonville FL 32225

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Mark A. Williams

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

1423 Pearl St. Atlantic Bch. FL.

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Fishin' Magician Ent.'s Inc.

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

JAMES E. YOUNG JR

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

3889 WINDY HILL CT ST AUG FLA 32086

904-797-7333

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

YOUNG MARINA LLC

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Rob Darnel

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-827-1181 or 904-537-1796

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

334 Van Gogh Cir Ponte Vedra, FL 32081

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

ME + my family

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405
PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD
Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

DALE SHELTON

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-472-8015

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

664 Tropical Parkway Orange Park, FL 32072

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Zachary Miller

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-962-4724

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

dazakercracker@hotmail.com Jacksonville, FL 32210

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

☒ **SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)**

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

RONALD W. DORSETT

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-992-8808

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

4493 CORALINA DR. JAX, FL. 32250

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- NA -

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Bob Zales Jr

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

850-763-6242

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

P.O. Box 4335 Panama City, FL 32401

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

P

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

DEREK A. SIEGER

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-781-4167

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

2329 HUGH EDWARDS DR JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

JACKSONVILLE OFFSHORE SPORT FISHING CLUB

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Captain Vic Tison

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-699-2285

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

P.O. Box 28208 Jax, FL 32226

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Vic2Fish & Adventures, Inc.

*"Just Fishin"
WOKV Radio Show*

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

D.G. Anderson

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-721-0564

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

P.O. Box 11233 Jacksonville FL 32239

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermillion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

JEFF RODDA

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-616-1928

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

1763 BRANCH VINE DR W JACKSONVILLE FL 32246

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

Ma

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Matt Davis

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-485-0830

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

1848 Dancy St. Jacksonville FL, 32205

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CH Lures

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

JAMES W. JOHNSON

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-221-6293

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

13769 HUNTERWOOD RD

JAX. FL. 32225

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

LOU DENICOLA

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-642-8052

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

4976 Maybank Way JAX 32225

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Bill Wilderoff

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-992-0800

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

14351 MARSH HAMMOCK DR. So. JAX, FL 32224

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

PERDONAC + JAX OFFSHORE FISHING CLUB

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Lisandro Rosales

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904.237.1705

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

3520 Uphill Terrace, Jacksonville, FL 32225

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Brian Seaton

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

(904)396 9406

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

4417 Beach Blvd #203 Jacksonville FL 32207

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

* **SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)**

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Heshia Yow

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-545-4918

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

1514 Seagate Ave / Jax Brh. FL 32250

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Capt. Richard Seafood, Inc.

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

JANIE THOMAS

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904 261 6615 (cell) 588-4423

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

95289 NASSAU RIVER Rd J A, FL 32034

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Shrimp Producers Association

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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X Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

Nancy Carrasquillo

904-382-4101

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

873 Melson Ave Jacksonville FL 32254

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

☒ SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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☒ Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

DINA T FRANZINO

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-641 0430

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

4031 Bunnell Dr

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Mariposa Princess

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

Eugene Fulginiti

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

4526 Harbour North Ct.

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermillion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

Chris Baslett

904-200-5861

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

9129 Harrison Ave. Jacksonville FL 32208

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Lee Ward

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-821-4301

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

4360 Tradewinds Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32250

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Mike Murphy

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-722-9226

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

1395 River Hills Ct Jacksonville, FL 32211

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405
PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD
Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

KORER WALKER

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-704-7760

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

1416 Pinewood Rd. JAX. BCH. FLA. 32250

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

JAX OFFSHORE FISHING CLUB

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Jess H. Dick

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

877-411-4272

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

121 Ogden Blvd Daytona Bch, FL 32118

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

ARC-Dehooker

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Shaly A. Keller

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

912-399-0462

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

8 Colony Terrace

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Bunnell Ha 31520

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

John T Keller

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

1-912-399-0462

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

8 Colony Terrace

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Burroughs & Co. 31520

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Joseph T Keller

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904 399-0462

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

Colony Terrace

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Bureau No. 31520

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

TARUS CHATMAN

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

(901) 214-3895

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

12433 Cliffrose Trail Jacksonville, FL 32225

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Jacksonville Offshore Sport fishing club

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405
PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD
Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Kirk Caplain

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

904-400-4755

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

1835 Welford, JAX, FL 32207

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Christopher's Joy / Shannondook

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Irene Caupain

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904 685-1161

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

1835 Welford Rd JAX FL 32207

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Christopher Joy

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

FRANK L. HEATWOLE

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

904-225-2597

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

85279 DELEENE RD YULEE, FL 32097

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermilion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
4055 FABER PLACE DRIVE, SUITE 201
NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405
PUBLIC COMMENT ATTENDANCE RECORD
Jacksonville, FL -- August 7, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

TELEPHONE NUMBER(& AREA CODE)

Michael J. Beckmann

904-349-6746

MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)

1800 Tierra Verde Dr Atlantic Beach FL 32237

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Please check the "yes" box below if you wish to make a statement.

SG Amendment 16 (gag and vermillion snapper)

YES

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NO

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Shrimp Amendment 7 (rock shrimp and reporting)

YES

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NO

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