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May 31, 2012

South Atlantic Council,

The purpose and intent of this letter is to make aware of the declining Kingfish stocks from N.J. to Key West from April 1st to Oct 31st every year from 2008-2009 to the present. Myself a fisherman (Comm.) in Southeast FL for 40 yrs can witness to a once healthy fishery (Kingfish) to the condition we have today. Check the landings and you will find a very distressing trend.

The reason of the decline are as follows.

1. B.P oil spill that allowed Corexit chemical to come up via the Gulf stream and pollute our coast. Now 45% of our reefs are dead and getting worse.
2. Harvesting Kingfish in May and August when they come down here to spawn
3. The Kingfish fleet is now mostly a very mobile live bait fleet. They catch most of the big spawners at a time (May + August). when they

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should not be harvested.

4. the present harvesting rules are not sustainable in my opinion
 5. Very heavy fishing pressure down here.
- My answers to fix ~~the~~ and save the Kingfish stocks are as follows

1. Reduce the daily bag ~~limit~~ limit to 30 fish per day.
2. No harvesting of Kingfish in May and August.
3. Stop all head boats and charter boats from selling Kingfish
4. reduce our quota from 3.88 million pounds down in portion to our landing limits

If we do not do something soon I believe we will have a big problem on our hands. The Council is mandated by the sustainable fisheries Act to correct and modify the harvesting of fish that show declines. I hope something is ^{done} ~~done~~ soon

Thankyou

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