

## Mike Schmidtke

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**From:** Kim Iverson  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 3:51 PM  
**To:** Council Members  
**Cc:** Tech Staff; Jeff Oden  
**Subject:** FW: Snapper Grouper Amendment 60 Public Comment - Jeff Oden

Council Members,

Please see the comment below from Jeff Oden from Cape Hatteras, NC addressing Snapper Grouper Amendment 60. The comments will be included in the Council's administrative record.

Jeff also requested staff share the link to a recent blog post regarding the Red Snapper fishery:  
<http://oneanglersvoyage.blogspot.com/2025/07/south-atlantic-red-snapper-circus-comes.html>

Kim



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**From:** Jeff Oden <slshcrkwtrwks@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 3, 2025 11:27 PM  
**To:** Kim Iverson

"As a commercial fisherman that has been involved in the SA snapper grouper fishery for over 45 years my first comment is to say end the 2/1 's in the year 2025 instead of 2027 since industry is likely to lose up to 25% of it's participants if not more before then. And that's coming from someone who has had a cooperate permit from the inception of the 2/1 and has as much to lose as anyone!

Why do i suggest that you ask? Well over 20 years ago when i was on the South Atlantic a.p. we became aware that 90% of our industry was over 50 years of age or older. In September of 2027 when this council decides to address this issue i will 75 years of age, a neighboring fisherman will be 78 and another 84..... provided we make it!

The other day when i was required to take an observer for the second time this year, i took the initiative to ask a few questions of their program. I asked how many com. fishermen were still considered active or in other words how many still got "Disturber" notices.....the answer was 272 or a little more than 10% of what the potential was in 1998.

So the real question is to this council that is trying to rationalize our industry into oblivion, one that is 25% of it's original total numbers.....HAVE WE NOT GIVEN ENOUGH??? And that question is certainly valid when one considers that the very same agency that PRETENDS to be rationalizing our industry for the benefit of the resource.....has allowed and still allows OPEN ACCESS to this very same resource to the SPONSORED FOR HIRE INDUSTRY that was ALLOWED TO ESCALATE FROM A FEW OVER 700 PERMITS BACK IN 1998 TO WELL OVER 2000 at present and COUNTING.....from maybe 5 participants to over 45 permits at present out of my inlet alone.....while our industry has been harassed in the other extreme.. In 1998 there was 15 of us commercially....now there are three at most being used and four or five inactive.. So if there is a continued need for a 2/1 it damned sure isn't our industry you need to be looking at! The simple fact

is a 6 pk charter has the potential of the average directed permit on most species and WELL OVER 4 times the numbers of potential participants.....and counting!!! And i might add their SPONSORED NATURE simply means they don't have to play the odds of "WONDER IF THE CURRENT IS RUNNIN" which keeps industry to the dock half the time! The simple truth the present FOR HIRE has far greater impact on the resource than the industry EVER thought of!!! PERIOD.....!!!

Finally on this topic, the upper echelon of this council needs to be reminded that this is truly "A PUBLIC TRUST RESOURCE". Unfortunately it prefers to let the over riding bias inherent in it's voting make up.....under ride the fact that 85% of this nations citizens never bothers wetting a line.....yet still has EVERY RIGHT TO ACCESS of the very same resource as the recreational participants. AND NO, THEY WOULDN'T JUST AS SOON EAT IMPORTS!! AND ANDY that's on you!

Next, as for the way to manage OUR quota and i capitalize "OUR'S" for a reason. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see why our industry got shut down in Dec. last year even though we didn't reach our quota on snowy grouper for instance.....especially when we saw the recreational component that went over their ACL by 274% and yet still got a 5 week season this year. Of course those of us in industry know were the shoe on the other foot we'd be taking the next 2 and 3/4 years off. One can only wonder what the rocket scientist back at headquarters propose next year.....?

So the point being, if our industry isn't living up to it's potential which we SURELY COULD HAVE given the opportunity, then by April of the following year there should be and allowance to up the ante to make sure the American consumer is not left wanting .....AND NO THEY WOULDN'T JUST AS SOON EAT IMPORTS!

As for other concern's, i am certainly anxious to hear from other members from different demographic's since my issues aren't necessarily theirs. The bottom line is what little we have left of our industry .....it's our industry to lose. AND IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THIS COUNCIL MAKEUP IS NOT IN OUR FAVOR! OR it's LEADERSHIP!!!

Finally, thanks for the opportunity to comment on these LONG OVERDUE ISSUES... The bottomline, END THE 2/1 in 2025.....NOT 2027 when there won't be enough of us left to feed the fish house cat....PROVIDED THERE IS STILL A FISH HOUSE LEFT???" If i were a betting man i'd be betting on the condos.....