My name is Sean Heverin and I live in Jacksonville, FL. I own a S/A Snapper Grouper Permit and fish commercially out of NE FL. I am writing in response to the alternaitves for Amendment 28.

Over the past year I have encountered numerous Red Snapper while targeting other species in the Snapper Grouper Complex. There were trips when fishing in 100-130ft of water in this area where the Red Snapper were so thick and agressive that we could not catch our desired species. Usually Vermillion Snapper, Grouper, Mangrove Snapper and Mutton Snapper were the intended species and while fishing for them Red Snapper literally took over certain spots where we could not fish for the intended species. I have seen Red Snapper show up in areas where I have never caught them before. They are moving into areas that histroically did not hold Red Snapper. The Red Snapper were biting rigs that were not intended for them and actually seem to be getting dumber and easier to catch then they use to be. Over the last 2 years since the closure I have observed that Red Snapper seem to be easier to catch then before 2010 when it appeared that they were much smarter. My opinion is that the Red Snapper stock is healthy and not undergoing overfishing and that the population can support a recreational fishing season and also a small trip limit for commercial fisherman. My opinion is that we should offer recreational fisherman a 1 fish per person per day limit and limit the fishing to Fri, Sat and Sunday so the fishery can be closely monitored and regulated by the state law enforcement. This recreational season should be open during non spawning periods and for specific fishing seasons. The commercial side should be allowed a 100lb trip limit that should run all year with the exception of spawning periods when the season should be closed for both commercial and recreational sectors. By allowing a 100lb trip limit commercial fisherman will not go out of their way to catch Red Snapper as we will catch them anyway with bycatch fishing for other species. 100lbs is small enough to where commercial fisherman will not be able to make a trip specifically to target Red Snapper but will allow commercial fisherman to add to the total catch of other species to turn a greater profit on their trips. 100lbs a trip will not wear down or hurt the population growth. Currently 100lbs of Red Snapper normally die as bycatch due to gut hooked fish or mortality when fishing for other species. This could be structured similarily to the Snowy Grouper fishery. It is a plus to go out and catch 100lbs of Snowy Grouper each trip as it contributes $350-$450 of revenue to each trip. With a small trip limit it does not hurt the population nor do commercial fisherman go out on trips and specifically target Snowy Grouper as the main species to catch for a trip. This could work for Red Snapper as well.

I am not in favor of Alternative 1
-the fish stock is healthy and sustainable and the data used to close the species in 2010 was flawed and innacurate.

I am in favor of Alternative 2
-spefically Sub- Alternative 2c

I am in favor of Alternative 3
-open commercial fishing seasons. -whichever sub alternative option occurs during periods of non spawning periods should be selected

I am in favor of Alternative 4

-whichever sub alternative option occurs during periods of non spawning periods should be selected

I am in favor of Alternative 5
-no size limit

I am in favor of Alterternative 6, Sub-Alternative 6d.
-100lb commercial trip limit
-only during non-spawning periods

I am in favor of Alternative 7
-only on weekends (Fri, Sat and Sun) and during non spawning periods

Thanks,

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