From: **Reichart, Chris D. - Appointed Process Assignment** <ReicCD@jea.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 19, 2012 at 9:27 AM
Subject: Amendment 28
To: "SGAmend28Comments@safmc.net" <SGAmend28Comments@safmc.net>, "palmettobooks@bellsouth.net" <palmettobooks@bellsouth.net>, "mackattackben@att.net" <mackattackben@att.net>, "AnnaBarriosBeckwith@gmail.com" <AnnaBarriosBeckwith@gmail.com>, "tbburgess@embarqmail.com" <tbburgess@embarqmail.com>, "michelle.duval@ncdenr.gov" <michelle.duval@ncdenr.gov>, "bellm@dnr.sc.gov" <bellm@dnr.sc.gov>, "tom@swatzel.com" <tom@swatzel.com>, "SteveAmicks@aol.com" <SteveAmicks@aol.com>, "doughaymans@gmail.com" <doughaymans@gmail.com>, "ga_capt@yahoo.com" <ga_capt@yahoo.com>, "jolleyjw@yahoo.com" <jolleyjw@yahoo.com>, "jessica.mccawley@myfwc.com" <jessica.mccawley@myfwc.com>, "roy.crabtree@noaa.gov" <roy.crabtree@noaa.gov>

Hello, my name is Chris Reichart and I live in Jacksonville, Florida. I spoke before your committee at the meetings in Jacksonville, at the Marriot and begged that you please re-evaulate the status of the red snapper stock off our coast and lift the ban on recreational harvest. I primarily fish out of Mayport Florida, and occasionally out of St Augustine. I have been fishing out of these two ports for over 30 years and never in my previous experience have I seen the abundance of red snapper that I've seen prior to the closure and certainly now, as a result of the closure. On many occasions, I am forced to move to another spot in order to NOT catch red snapper. They seem to have invaded many of the areas where I have historically targeted other species. On a recent dive to a near shore spot, I was surrounded by a cloud of curious red snapper. The school included literally hundreds of mature fish. They almost seemed to dominate the reef with very few other species of other fish visible. The "nearly extinct" red snapper, per your scientific measures, has become a near pest on local fishing areas. It's time to allow the recreational harvest of this species. However, at no time should we ever allow the commercial harvest, and monetary benefit of this, or any other natural resource.

I wish to make the following comments on Amendment 28

Action 1. Red Snapper: ACLs, AMs, and Fishing Seasons
Alternative 1. This alternative is unacceptable in that it perpetuates the past errors made in the data calculations. The science used to calculate the red snapper stocks is incorrect. The scientific theory is flawed and needs to be based on actual catch data, not speculative assumptions.

Sub-alternative 2c. Two previous year's ratio.
I support this alternative, but in general believe the ratio methodology is flawed!

Alternative 3. Establish commercial fishing seasons.

I oppose this alternative! The natural resources of all should not be exploited for the profit of a few. And, if there must be a commercial harvest, I would consider it criminal to allow a commercial harvest season when there is NO recreational harvest season. What gives a license hold the right to harvest thousands of pounds of fish while I can harvest none? Where is the justice in that? Or, if there is a recreational limit on a species, say with vermillion snapper for example, why is a commercial fisherman allowed to harvest large numbers for profit, while I, a

recreational angler who is contributing to the local economy can only harvest five fish? I buy $150 worth of gas, $40 worth of bait, $30 worth of tackle, $50 worth of food, drinks and ice, drive my truck that needs fuel to pull my boat that I purchased for $50,000 so that I and two others on board can catch five fish each. That's ten small fillets. But the commercial guy devastates the stocks day in a day out throughout the season. Where's the justice?

Alternative 4. Establish recreational fishing seasons.

I do not support a limited recreational season, I support an annual open recreational season. But, if forced to chose, I support sub-alternative 4a. The later in the year the season is offered, the more likely we are to have tropical activity in the Atlantic Ocean which will prevent fishermen from being able to harvest at all. In 2012, the ridiculous three day seasons were made very dangerous as a result of typical September weather. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that the weather is questionable in September.

Alternative 5. Eliminate the red snapper commercial and recreational 20-inch TL minimum size limit.
I support the elimination of the 20-inch TL minimum size limit.

Alternative 6. Establish a red snapper commercial trip limit.
I oppose this alternative completely. We should not allow the use of commercial traps as a method to harvest a natural resources. Traps are damaging to the all marine animals and are indiscriminate killers. There is no way to regulate the species, number and weight of fish that enter a trap.

Alternative 7. Establish a red snapper recreational bag limit of one fish per person per day.
I agree with this alternative but would prefer to have a two fish per day limit.

Chris D. Reichart <><
(904) 665-4447 <tel:%28904%29%20665-4447>