

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN & FEP COMPREHENSIVE AMENDMENT PUBLIC HEARING

POOLER, GEORGIA

May 12, 2008

Summary Minutes

Mr. Vendetti: First, I'd like to submit this letter as part of the record, if it's okay. My name is Richard Vendetti. I'm with the Southern Shrimp Alliance. The shrimp industry supports the protection of deep waters corals where it is shown that the coral actually exists. However, we do not support prohibiting shrimp trawling in areas that have been traditionally used. This just doesn't make sense because the shrimp industry wouldn't have been able to trawl there in the first place if coral was present.

The biggest problematic area that we've seen from the public hearing information is in the Savannah and East Florida lithoherm and down towards the Miami Terrace, which, of course, as you know is the biggest HAPC. The west boundary of this HAPC cuts into several stretches of very productive royal red ground. While we understand that the boundary has been modified to a small extent, still its present position would prohibit the industry from working in areas that have been worked for some time and were very unlikely that coral exists.

Therefore, based on our actual fishing experience and knowledge of this bottom area versus the speculation that coral may be in these areas, we believe the western boundary of the proposed Savannah and East Florida lithoherm should be moved east so that all of the traditional royal red fishing areas documented by NMFS VMS data should remain outside of the HAPC boundary.

Another problem in creating the HAPCs as they are is the potential impact of penalties in our ever-increasingly marginal profit fishery for a boat that enters that HAPC. In this fishery our gear often becomes tangled in itself primarily because of the strong current on either set-out or haul-back. While the gear is not touching the ground when this happens, however, it is often common to drift for several hours where a vessel could drift easily into the HAPC given the five-knot tides.

Because of this, we feel that fines should be either substantially reduced or eliminated in the event that a communication mechanism can be created where a vessel can indicate that he is in duress or disabled. Basically, there are really three important things to know about the royal red shrimp fishery. There is absolutely no incentive whatsoever for royal red fishermen to try to fish in deep water coral or in the vicinity of HAPCs. In fact, there is a life-or-death disincentive to do so.

Royal red fishermen do not fish in deep water coral habitat. As proof of this, we offer the following fact, and that is that we have been able to, for decades, including the present time, to fish in that area, but we never have. The presence of NMFS-documented VMS tracks of royal red shrimp fishing vessels in an area essentially means that there is no coral there. If royal red shrimp fishing occurs in a location it can safely concluded that there is no deep water coral in that location. As a practical matter, the delineation of this fishery and the deep water coral habitat are both precisely illustrated by the VMS data, and the HAPC boundary should be drawn accordingly.

Finally, because of the very unique characteristics of the fishery and the tides, it is very likely that vessels will become disabled and drift into a HAPC. This will only be known by viewing the VMS satellite tracking data and therefore completely innocent behavior of the owner and operator of a disabled vessel is very vulnerable to unwarranted prosecution or penalties.

The bottom line is in order to accommodate these specific fishing areas a relatively modest eastward shift of the western boundary of the middle HAPC would be required to accommodate the previously NMFS-documented royal red shrimp fishing area and to provide the fishery with an area of sorts that would provide adequate working room to safely respond to the dangerous situation when a vessel becomes disabled.

The proposed Savannah and East Florida lithoherm includes approximately 23,000 nautical square miles of ocean and the area needed to accommodate these fishing areas would represent a very tiny fraction of the HAPC. I appreciate your time.

Mr. Linton: My name is Robbie Linton. I'm from Richmond Hill, Georgia. I've been living in the Savannah area for about eight years. As far as the South Atlantic Fishery Ecosystem Plan, I think, again, the laws that are being pushed to be placed for the various commercial fishermen are pretty harsh. I think they would maybe just need to educate our commercial fishermen and show them that what they're doing to the environment. As far as any damages that they have caused, we might need to just educate them instead of passing a law that's hard to be repealed. That's pretty much it.

**Transcribed By:
Graham Transcription Service, Inc.
May 30, 2008**

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FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN & FEP COMPREHENSIVE AMENDMENT PUBLIC
HEARING

POOLER, GEORGIA
May 12, 2008

Attendees

Council Members

Charles Duane Harris
Susan Shipman

Staff Member:

Julie O' Dell



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

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FEP Comprehensive Amendment

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Pooler, GA

DATE OF MEETING

May 12, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Woody MOORE

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

912-727-2232

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

289 OLD MILL RD Richmond Hill Ga. 31324

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)

YES

NO



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LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Pooler, GA

DATE OF MEETING

May 12, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

LANNY SWICEGOOD

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

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

Brunswick, GA

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)

YES

NO



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NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29405

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Pooler, GA	DATE OF MEETING May 12, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) CAPT KEVIN O'BRIEN	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE)	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) LUCKY ONE CHARTER	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO



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PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)

LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE) Pooler, GA	DATE OF MEETING May 12, 2008
YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Richard VENEFFI	TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE) 912-222-8296
MAILING ADDRESS (PLEASE INCLUDE STREET OR BOX NO., CITY, STATE, & ZIP CODE) P.O. Box 1781 Brunswick, GA 31520	
BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE) Southern Swamp Alliance	
DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT? (PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY IF AVAILABLE)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO



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LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Pooler, GA

DATE OF MEETING

May 12, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Wood y Moore

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

912-727-2232

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

289 Old Mill Richmond Hill, Ga. 31324

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)

YES

NO



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DATE OF MEETING

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YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ROBBIE LINTON

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

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

Richmond Hill, GA

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)

YES

NO



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LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

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May 12, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

Tom Munn

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

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

Pooler, GA

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
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YES

NO



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LOCATION OF MEETING (CITY & STATE)

Pooler, GA

DATE OF MEETING

May 12, 2008

YOUR NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

CHUCK STEIN

TELEPHONE NUMBER (& AREA CODE)

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

BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION YOU REPRESENT (IF APPLICABLE)

CCA-GA

DO YOU WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT?
(PLEASE ATTACH A WRITTEN COPY
IF AVAILABLE)

YES

NO