From: DSF2009@aol.com
To: Mike Collins
Cc: DSF2009@aol.com
Subject: Fwd: Comments for Joint Habitat and EP and E-B Mgmt Committees
Date: Thursday, March 06, 2014 6:04:18 PM

From: mikem@wildoceanmarket.com
To: AnnaBarriosBeckwith@gmail.com, mackattackben@att.net, ga_capt@yahoo.com, palmettobooks@bellsouth.net, Warner-KramerDM@state.gov, doughaymans@gmail.com, jessica.mccawley@myfwc.com, jolleyjw@yahoo.com, Mario.G.Gil@uscg.mil, bellm@dnr.sc.gov, michelle.duval@ncdenr.gov, rbeal@asmfc.org, Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov, SteveAmicks@aol.com, Wilson_Laney@fws.gov, Dayboat1965@gmail.com, conklincc@gmail.com, fishzack@comcast.net
CC: b.zirlott@aol.com, dFredJr@bellsouth.net, john@shrimpalliance.com, laurileethompson@aol.com, solorzanom@aol.com, diveindude@comcast.net, seamar82000@gmail.com, swilson@ioealabama.net, gautierl@bellsouth.net, jeannam@wildoceanmarket.com, sherrim@wildoceanmarket.com
Sent: 3/2/2014 11:46:08 P.M. Eastern Standard Time
Subj: Comments for Joint Habitat and EP and E-B Mgmt Committees

I'm not sure I will be able to make the meeting this week, but I wanted to thank the council for reviewing the suggestions from the Deepwater Shrimp AP. We have the common goal of wanting to protect the Oculina coral with minimal impact to the rock shrimp fishery. I'd like to make the following comments regarding the Agenda.

Regarding the Overview for the Joint Habitat and Environmental Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Committees, item C. Spatial Representation of Oculina Bank HAPC Options and Attachment 1:

1. It would be helpful to see the VMS points in association with the green line (the eastern boundary currently defined in Coral Amendment 8) and the red eastern boundary (proposed by the Deepwater Shrimp AP). This would give the council a better idea of the historic shrimping activity that takes place in this area.
2. Zooming in on the area would better illustrate the area being utilized is the roll-down bottom east of the Oculina structures. Shrimping typically occurs a half mile off shore of the Oculina structures at a minimum.

Regarding the council staff request to provide voluntary, landings information from FL trip tickets from rock shrimp fisherman operating in the eastern Oculina HAPC region identified by points 16-25 proposed by the Deepwater Shrimp AP:

1. The data I submitted to council staff was summarized from 52 rock shrimp trips between 9/4/2013 and 11/4/2013 by 15 vessels totaling 1,081,086 pounds with an ex-vessel value of $2,744,012.
2. There are additional vessels that access this area, 6 that I am familiar with, that were either not in this area this year or that have not yet responded.
3. Of the data collected, catch from 6 vessels from 11 trips in the 250-300 ft depth totaled $292,680.80.
4. This is approximately one third of the value of the rock shrimp trips during this 2 month time period.
5. 6 vessels had 11 trips, in 2 months, in one area, with ex-vessel value 34% more than Coral Amendment 8 estimated the industry would be

impacted by the entire expansion over 7 years.

6. The economic value of this product is more than 10 times greater than the ex-vessel price.

Another consideration is the loss of rock shrimp habitat and historic rock shrimp fishing area south of St Lucie to West Palm that is now covered by brown macro-algae overgrowth. Samples were retrieved by one of the rock shrimp vessels and are being analyzed. This essentially increases the value of all historic rock shrimp fishing areas as natural or un-natural environmental changes impact the ocean floor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Merrifield

Deepwater Shrimp AP