

12/7/11 8:30P

ATTN: David Cupka

Following is a statement from
SA concerned fisherman.

We respectfully request that
this statement be read when
Comments are addressed in the
Meeting Dec 8 so that it will
be recorded on record or minutes.

Please reply to email:
troutst1@embargmail.com

regarding receipt.

Thank you for your
attention and consideration

Cliff Trout

December 6, 2011

Gentlemen of the SAFMC:

It is unfortunate that the scheduling of the fall meeting of the SAFMC held in Raleigh, NC prevented attendance of the fishermen from the coast since it requires a six hour commute. Concerned fishermen who normally attend these meetings from the Crystal Coast replied via email of that inconvenience.

A notice received on December 3, 2011 from "South Atlantic Fishermen's Association" stated a voluntary ITQ program was to be presented on behalf of the fishermen at that meeting. This proposed program could not be beneficial to the small fisherman since it does not represent the majority of the South Atlantic Fishermen. It does appear as an effort to control the fish quota in the South Atlantic by a few wealthy, well-connected fishermen and fish house owners. Most distressing is that these actions appear to disconnect and exclude the average small independent fisherman.

The VMS and off-loading at pre-approved fish houses demonstrates that this is obviously wealthy larger fishermen with fish house affiliations that want to force an attempt to seize the fish quota and regulate the small independent fisherman out of business. We have argued against VMS from the beginning due to the installation and monthly monitoring expense. In addition the dates proposed in their program to qualify catch records appear to have been adjusted from earlier discussions to benefit this small group at the expense of the other fishermen.

Small independent fishermen have invested as much or more per capita as the larger fishermen and fish houses and stand to lose as much or more. For most small fishermen it jeopardizes our income, retirement investments, boats, equipment and licenses to nothing.

Fellow small independent fishermen, affirmed below, disagree with this proposal and ask for its immediate rejection.

Sincerely,

South Atlantic Concerned Fishermen

Charles Crawford - BOUNTY HUNTER NC 1297WJ
Larry C Lenthauer - Best Friends 622717
Crippled Aunt Sea Trout II NC 0605wef
Justin Wipondli Fishinmission NC 1041CW
Kalymin Prout FAMILY AFFAIR NC 5047DA
Scott Davis Seanie III NC 982774