

Public Reporting

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Public Comment Form



Meeting

June 2023 Council Meeting

Submit Date	Submitted By	Location	Affiliation	Comment
6/2/2023	First Name: Chris Last Name: McCaffity Email: freefish7@hotmail.com	City: Morehead State: North Carolina	Commercial	<p>June 2023 SAFMC Meeting Public Comment</p> <p>Please ask the National Marine Fisheries Service to send Amendment 35 back for further review. The council should focus on setting up a recreational fishing license to collect real data before creating more regulatory discards based on worst-case-scenario assumptions. The public hearing I attended showed that there are more Red Snapper than ever before. The reason given for wanting more regulatory discards is so the average size of Red Snapper will be around 10 pounds. The data from previous years showed a disproportionate number of smaller fish. Those fish have grown since then to the desired size. This is evident in the number of larger snapper we are catching and discarding this year. The average size of fish used to calculate landings data for quotas is roughly the weight wanted by scientists. Leaving the status quo would be better for the fish, fishermen, and fishery managers than forcing us to discard even more larger fish that are more susceptible to barotrauma. Planning to waste our public resources should not be the preferred management plan. Implementing Amendment 35 will completely erode any confidence fishermen have left in the management process. Please do the right thing for the fish and fishermen by stopping Amendment 35 while you review better options. Culling some of the overabundant and aggressive Red Snapper will help many other species that are struggling to compete for food and habitat. We need to recognize that it is not natural for every species to simultaneously exist at the highest possible levels. Trying to make it happen will continue to cause the kind of stock declines we are seeing for fish that live around the same habitat as Red Snapper. Please don't turn the Red Snapper success story into another failure.</p> <p>Thank you, Chris McCaffity</p>
6/7/2023	First Name: Andrew Last Name: Mahoney Email: Mahoneydrew@yahoo.com	City: Bluffton State: South Carolina	Commercial, Wholesale/Dealer /Retail	<p>In regard to underserved communities such as Gullah in the sea islands of Beaufort County, SC, access to harvesters providing in such communities must be granted without dependence on the previous structuring of permitting. This will promote inclusivity and utilization of the natural resource in those underserved communities, especially the Gullah, whose dialect is a hurdle as it is not understood by any council members. Current permitting structure does not allow for access to provide to underserved communities. This would be on a very minimal basis that a harvester would only qualify if currently leasing a permit to provide in the underserved communities, resulting in no impact on current fisheries stocks. It is only fair if recreational and commercial sectors work together to address fairness and equity to secondary stakeholders. A copy of actions and impacts will be sent to administrator@safmc.net outlining the needs for underserved communities such as in the sea islands of Beaufort County, South Carolina.</p>
6/8/2023	First Name: Don Last Name: Smith Email: donsmithpdx@gmail.com	City: Ponte Vedra Beach State: Florida	Private Recreational	<p>I have been fishing NE Florida for ten years. I began diving offshore in JAX in 2020, and have done so for the last 4 years. Its one thing to catch a dozen red snapper on a bottom spot and think 'well, they're really doing well down there.' It's another to dive the wrecks, reefs, and ledges off Mayport and St. Augustine and to see just how many snapper there are on every spot. I have not found a spot with no red snapper, but I rarely see gag grouper. My concern is that the regulations have caused such a successful rebound in the ARS population that other fish - gags, cobia, even black sea bass - have a hard time competing.</p> <p>I would happily take any SAFMC staff or board members out to the wrecks of their choosing to conduct a survey of their own. I would also ask if the staff have tracked black sea bass results against the backdrop of the recovered ARS stocks.</p> <p>I hate to suggest this, but I would advocate for closing grouper for a few years and opening ARS to a season similar to the Gulf to assess how well grouper can rebound from their current decline.</p> <p>I echo the sentiment of another commenter - please don't let this raging success be the cause of another collapse.</p>
6/9/2023	First Name: Daniel Last Name: Cone Email: Cabinetproky@gmail.com	City: fleming island State: Florida	Private Recreational	<p>I frequently scuba dive/spear fish the reefs off the cost of north east Florida monthlyand the red snapper schools are in the fifties on every reef. Population is recovering very well.</p>
6/11/2023	First Name: Jack Last Name: Cox Email: dayboat1965@gmail.com	City: atlantic beach State: North Carolina	Commercial, Wholesale/Dealer /Retail	<p>King Mackerel Tournaments are taking a toll on the large female King Mackerels. There is no reason why RECREATIONAL CATCH should be SOLD. 1. Commercial King Mackerel Fishermen target the medium 8-15 lb fish while the Recreation Tournament fishermen are targeting the large Female Spawners. This action is taking a toll on both recreational and commercial fishing harvest. 2. Once a recreational caught fish is sold through the tournament it becomes a Commercial Sell Period. 3. There tournaments are increasing every year and there is no end in sight. The term charity being used for this needs to stop. 3. Show me proof of what the dealer is recieving for the sells and what the tournament actually recieves back. (No records to be found).</p> <p>With the increase in tournamets, fast boats and technology this council needs to do what they are sworn in to do. "Manage and conserve the resource". If this contiunes there will be no more mackerels to support the needs of the boating industry, tackle manufactures and consumers. If the tournament sells cease, the tournament sponers will discontinue thier distribution of a ticket per fish for raffle prizes in cash and the less desirable size fish will be released back in the ocean and help promote more spawning.</p> <p>Please take action on this now. Within the last ten years we have seen drastic decline in the King Fish Populations throughout the South Atlantic Range especially noted in the Morehead City to Cape Hatteras areas. This should have never been allowed to start with.</p>

6/11/2023	First Name: James Last Name: Hull Email: HULLSSEAFOOD@AOL.COM	City: Ponce Inlet State: Florida	Commercial, For-Hire, Wholesale/Dealer /Retail	<p>June 12, 2023 South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201 North Charleston, SC 29405</p> <p>Re: Written Comment for June 2023 SAFMC meeting Council Members:</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to address the important agenda items concerning our Snapper-Grouper fisheries. In the presentation you received from HMS leadership are Scoping Phase Actions for Amendment 16 to the HMS FMP (Shark quotas and management). I request the council to review the SHARE report and the HMS amendment 16 scoping document, then to make comments and recommendations to HMS from the SAFMC to provide more access for harvest of our rebuilt sustainable shark fisheries. Our coastal shark populations are a rebuilt success story with many tons of quota not being harvested. This is an opportunity for Fisherman from every sector to benefit and perhaps address the severe Shark depredation occurring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic reporting - SEFSC Commercial Electronic Logbook Project. I fully support every effort being made for commercial electronic logbooks. This is of benefit to Fisherman, Management and Science it will increase accuracy, speed and content. • South Atlantic research prioritization. I support Evaluating the frequency and magnitude of S/G recruitment coming from other regions such as the Gulf of Mexico or areas to the south. Identify factors contributing to decreased recruitment of S/G species. Re-examine the assumptions for natural mortality of all our S/G stocks. Increase the use of cooperative Research projects (CRP) with Industry especially the use of hook and line RTD and bottom longline sampling. Obtaining fisheries independent data from cooperative research hook and line data collection with Industry will provide the biggest bang for the buck. This data is a reality check of the current catch composition and abundance levels of our reef fish stocks. It's a shame that we have not had a CRP hook and line sampling for the same time period as the Chevron trap has been used to collect samples. It should be funded year-round to monitor and inform Science and Management. • Citizen Science I support the ongoing and future Citizen science projects. These are success stories that can only get better. • King Mackerel I support the Mackerel AP recommendations for port meeting to better understand the fishery. • Dolphinfinch I support the development of MSE modeling to better manage the fishery. • Snapper/Grouper Amendment 48- Wreckfish I support the alternatives and options and recommendations of the SG/ AP especially a requirement of a Wreckfish permit and reporting for the private recreational sector. And to Remove the requirement to offload wreckfish between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., local time. And to Retain the current commercial sector and recreational sector allocations as 95% and 5%, respectively, of the total annual catch limit for wreckfish. <p>Amendment 55 Yellowtail Snapper- I support the SG/AP Recommending that the Council consider the following alternatives: Action 1: 80% South Atlantic, 20% Gulf of Mexico jurisdictional allocation, Sub-Action 2a: Alternative 5 (ACL/OY = Lowest ABC), Action 3: Option 1, retain the current allocations, applied to the updated ABC. And for the Council to move slowly and cautiously with this very successful fishery.</p> <p>Amendment 46 Recreational Permitting I support the SG/ AP in establishing a private recreational permit and education component for the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery. DRAFT Action 1. Establish a private recreational snapper grouper permit to fish for, harvest, or possess Snapper Grouper species in the South Atlantic Region MOTION 5: THE SNAPPER GROUPE AP RECOMMENDS A VESSEL-BASED RATHER THAN AN INDIVIDUAL ANGLER-BASED PERMIT BE REQUIRED FOR THE PRIVATE COMPONENT OF THE RECREATIONAL SECTOR IN AMENDMENT 46. APPROVED BY AP (UNANIMOUS) ADDITIONAL CONTEXT FOR MOTION: RECOMMEND ALTERNATIVE 2 IN ACTION 1. The SG/AP has been recommending a Recreational permit for over 11 years now. You cannot have unlimited Private recreational access to our limited fishery resources. Unlimited access results in the dead discard fisheries that we currently have. Why have you not corrected this mis-management mistake?</p> <p>The Black Seabass population off Ponce Inlet Fla. Is at an all-time low. This is not because of Overfishing but because of the Overwhelming Red Snapper population. Council members we are all forced to accept the science that is delivered to us from the SEDAR process and the SSC Interpretation as the best Scientific information available. The Scientific staff from port samplers to SSC members is made up of Great, Good, Intelligent people. However, the Red Snapper science has failed us. The Mischaracterization and Interpretation of the stocks age structure, productivity, recruitment and status of overfished and overfishing occurring is astonishing. How can the SSC get it so wrong? I understand the Ocean is unpredictable, warming waters, changing currents has caused the Best scientific information available to fail us. Now many of our S/G species are in big declines of abundance through a lack of successful recruitment and new age classes entering the fishery. Only one species Red Snapper is having record abundance, recruitment and an ever-expanding population. Literally Red Snapper are eating the other co occurring reef fish out of house and home. Yet we still have a closed fishery. Imagine with the record abundance and reproductivity of Red Snapper the number of larvae and Young of year animals being produced every year competing for food at the earliest stages of life. Less abundant cooccurring reef fish larvae have very little chance for survival.</p> <p>I ask the Council to have their SSC use a different method/ model not based on old theories, Ideas, estimates, predictions or text to obtain a new stock status, biomass, life history and ACL, MSY for Red Snapper. Obviously, the Red Snapper science we are currently using is not working. The entire reef fish ecosystem is suffering and in jeopardy because of this mistake.</p> <p>I hope and pray that change happens very soon and perhaps then the Council can manage Red Snapper as the rebuilt, successful, sustainable fishery that it is. And provide a chance for the entire ecosystem of other reef fish in decline to recover.</p> <p>Jimmy Hull Ponce Inlet Fla.</p>
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6/11/2023	<p>First Name: James Last Name: Hull Email: HULLSSEAFOOD@AOL.COM</p>	<p>City: Ponce Inlet State: Florida</p>	<p>Commercial, For-Hire, Wholesale/Dealer/Retail</p>	<p>June 12, 2023 South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201 North Charleston, SC 29405</p> <p>Re: Written Comment for June 2023 SAFMC meeting</p> <p>Council Members:</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to address the important agenda item concerning Snapper-Grouper Regulatory Amendment 35 on Red Snapper & Release Mortality Reduction.</p> <p>As a stakeholder I am forced to accept the unrealistic results of the SEDAR 73 stock assessment status for red snapper. My comments are in response to the base run model and inputs that were chosen by your SSC. In the model results dead discards of Red snapper from the recreational snapper-grouper fishery continue to be the primary factor slowing the rebuild of this stock and the re-opening of the South Atlantic Red snapper fishery. The SEDAR 73 stock assessment estimates that 500,000 to 800,000 Red snapper are killed each year as recreational fleet discards, we must turn dead discards into landings. This is mis-management and an unsustainable loss of Red snapper in the South Atlantic. I support management strategies that can reduce it. As Council members, you also are forced to manage the stock with the results of the SEDAR 73 SA Red snapper model that continues to provide unreliable stock status benchmarks that affect the livelihoods of fishermen in the South Atlantic.</p> <p>Council Leadership has demonstrated and stated that when the stock is considered rebuilt you will have no more Harvest or discard mortality yield than the current level. The Private Recreational sector is overcapitalized and has unlimited access to a Limited resource. If this overcapitalization continues all of our S/G fisheries will become dead discard fisheries. The Council must and should have implemented management measures in Amendment 35 for the Private recreational sector to become accountable, controlled and sustainable. The Private recreational dead discard problem has destroyed the accountable managed, sustainable harvest of the Commercial sector and seafood Consumers. A S/G bottom fishing season by area or time for the Private recreational sector could solve this year-round dead discard mis-management. The vast majority of private recreational anglers' fish on the weekends and during the summer months. I ask you to research seasons for the private recreational SG sector ASAP.</p> <p>Problems with the S73 BAM model for Red snapper Problems continue to affect the ability of NMFS to accurately assess the South Atlantic Red snapper stock. The stock assessments will continue to be hamstrung by the use of Chevron traps and affixed stereo-cameras that routinely underestimate the stock structure for the simple reason that: 1) the trap selects for small fish, and 2) the camera can only estimate Red snapper length but not age. This is problematic for an age-based BAM model, where Red snapper age is largely indiscernible for fish that simple don't grow much longer in length after age 10.</p> <p>Both the FWC's Repetitive Timed Drop (RTD HL) fisheries independent index of abundance and the Captain's Choice handline (CC HL) index have been demonstrated to catch (and provide age information on) Red snapper that are neither caught in the Chevron trap or seen in the Chevron Trap's affixed camera. From S73 RD-02 (pg. 21), the Florida FWC reported: "Overall, Red snapper captured in Chevron traps had smaller average length than those in the stereo-camera. This is largely attributable to decreasing capture probability with increasing size, especially in individuals over 600 mm FL [\sim > age 4]. In contrast, the hooked gears captured larger Red snapper on average than were observed on stereo-video."</p> <p>Science center leadership has stated in the past that cooperative hook and line sampling similar to RTD would be implemented at a federal level in the SA range. Hook and line sampling should be a priority to get a more accurate age structure of our S/G species. Why do we not have cooperative fisheries independent hook and line sampling on a closed fishery? "Red snapper recruitment is that of a rebuilt stock" South Atlantic red snapper recruitment rates have been spectacular for many years. This has been obvious to NMFS stock assessment scientists who said in S41, "red snapper recruitment in the South Atlantic is that of a rebuilt stock." Fishermen from Florida to North Carolina with their observations on the water have observed and told you the same. How can the SSC determine that the stock is overfished and overfishing occurring?</p> <p>The S73 RS model is sensitive to Natural Mortality estimates Natural mortality estimates play a driving role in stock assessment model benchmarks and was a significant source of uncertainty in the S73 SA RS assessment (see SEDAR 73 SAR). The estimated natural mortality rate which determines rebuilding age structure has been changed in successive SEDAR SA Red snapper stock assessments, from M=0.13 in S41 to M=0.11 in S73 utilizing different methods of estimating M). Also, setting the Natural Mortality much higher at M=0.2, as was done in a model sensitivity run actually improves the stock status to a rebuilt stock status of Not Overfished and much lower Overfishing rate. Killing more fish with M creates a rebuilt stock in the model and reduces overfishing faster. Clearly the SEDAR 73 model results to stock status are inaccurate and do not represent reality as seen in the ocean. During SEDAR 73 assessment I asked how many Red snapper over 20 years of age had been observed from the age readings. The response was that in the last 42 years 30,705 fisheries dependent samples have been taken. This resulted in only 141 Red snapper over 20 years of age. It is time for the NMFS to admit that we are never going to rebuild the Red snapper stock to have an abundance of over 20 up to 51 year old fish, as used in some Natural Mortality estimates. But from a population sustainability perspective, using a 28 year old fish as a rebuild target will suffice. The difference in this life history model estimate is literally the difference between having a nearly rebuilt stock versus one estimated rebuilt in 2047. It is time for the council to advise their SSC to use abundance and recruitment as the primary indicators of determining stock bio-mass and harvest levels.</p> <p>SEDAR is currently conducting a multi-year research track assessment for red snapper, now is the time to fully engage with your SSC to implement changes so the model better resembles reality of the ocean. Thank you for your consideration of this comment. Respectfully, Jimmy Hull Ponce Inlet FL.</p>
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6/12/2023	<p>First Name: Andrew Last Name: Mahoney Email: Mahoneydrew@yahoo.com</p>	<p>City: Bluffton State: South Carolina</p>	<p>Commercial, Wholesale/Dealer /Retail</p>	<p>Pasted reasons for needed updates requested by administrator regarding previous comment</p> <p>The following will address the needed updates for National Standard 4/Guideline 4 and National Standard 8(1) Provide for the sustained participation of such communities; and (2) To the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct Access for Harvesters: Our updated guidelines must unambiguously prioritize the direct access of primary current harvesters serving underserved communities. We must dismantle the barriers that force them to depend on private third-party leasees to provide to their citizens. By allowing these dedicated harvesters (where they are the primary provider of the resource) to access the resources directly, we not only grant longevity to underserved communities but also ensure that they are served by those who understand their unique needs. 2. Resource Allocation: The updated guidelines must ensure a fair and equitable allocation of fishery resources to current harvesters (where they are the primary provider of the resource) serving underserved communities. We must recognize the historical and cultural significance of fishing to communities such as communities with Gullah descendants to ensure their continued access to publicly served resources. This includes addressing the unjust hurdles faced by harvesters who are the sole provider in areas that are historically Gullah or like groups containing secondary stakeholders, by reevaluating the permit structures that hinder their participation. 3. Elimination of Leasee Dependence: We must explicitly state the objective of reducing or eliminating the dependence of primary commercial harvesters providing to underserved communities on private third-party leasees. Empowering these primary harvesters with direct access rights enables them to manage and utilize their fishing resources independently. By doing so, we foster economic self-sufficiency within these communities and alleviate the reliance on external entities. 4. Conservation and Sustainability: Our updated guidelines must place paramount importance on conservation and sustainability in fisheries management. We can strike a delicate balance by supporting practices that ensure the long-term health of fishery resources while enabling equitable access and economic viability for underserved communities. By embracing sustainable fishing practices, we secure the future of our marine ecosystems and uplift the communities that depend on them. <p>The following section of the public comment will address specific policies and plans set forth by the "Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy" (EEJ) and how these policies relate to specific underserved communities and how an update to National Standard Guidelines will benefit them.</p> <p>POLICY MANDATES pg 9, 3rd bullet point "All populations should share in (and are not excluded from) benefits of Departmental programs, policies and activities affecting human health or the environment." I agree with this mandate and it should address the "Elimination of Leasee Dependence" by granting access to primary providers of the resource to underserved communities without relying on private third-party leasees.</p> <p>BARRIERS TO EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE pg 9-10 (the following instances deal directly to structuring of permitting and the impacts the permit structures have on underserved communities)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unawareness of underserved communities Citizens of Beaufort County, SC that do not have the economic capability to participate in the recreational sectors on the sea island of Daufuskie, Hilton Head and St. Helena that are historically Gullah and rely upon a single professional harvester forced to lease or not participate in the fishery, due to the structuring of permitting, to provide their link to the managed resource should be identified as underserved. 2. Structural Barriers The structuring of commercial permitting such as the South Atlantic's Snapper/Grouper 2 for 1 amendment has resulted in an unrealistic path for underserved communities to obtain any access without depending in perpetuity upon unregulated private third-parties to participate resulting in a decrease in longevity and future exclusion of underserved communities. 3. Barriers of Engagement Structuring of commercial permits such as the South Atlantic's snapper/grouper permits discourage secondary stakeholders that make up underserved communities from participating in management procedures due to the perceived lack of longevity of harvesters. 4. System Complexity The structuring of commercial permitting where "a moratorium on permits" is in effect is a supremely complex and unrealistic process for primary or sole harvesters in underserved communities and must be addressed to provide equity to underserved communities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of complex characteristics of structures of commercial permitting such as the South Atlantic's Snapper/Grouper that negatively impact underserved communities. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. (The destruction of permits has caused an unrealistic obtainment of access to harvesters in underserved communities. II. Current permit holders choose to lease their permits at high, un-regulated prices to harvesters in underserved communities instead of selling. This causes an uneven trade in underserved communities where income may not be equal to those areas with multiple permit holders due to accessibility to fishing grounds. It also causes underserved communities to unnecessarily rely on an unregulated private third-party in perpetuity to be provided with the resource. III. Utilization of the amendments like the 2 for 1 amendment, by harvesters providing to underserved communities, is unrealistic. Presently obtaining 1 to make the first half of permission to access to commercially harvest has become impossible. Finding a second permit in a year's time from the expiration date of the first has created a giant barrier for sellers and buyers and negative impact on underserved communities. IV. Purchasing an Incorporated permit such as a corporate SG1 has stalled the process of including underserved communities and in many cases resulted in loss of state tax income when corporate taxes are paid to previous corporation's state of origin negatively impacting underserved communities. <p>PROPOSED ACTION TO ADDRESS BARRIERS IN EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: Grant access to sole or primary harvesters in their current fishery to provide to citizens in their underserved communities, without relying on a private third-party leasee.</p> <p>IMPACT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote equity and ensure that all members of the underserved communities have a voice in the management of fisheries. 2. Help to support local economies in coastal communities, particularly these that are underserved or economically disadvantaged. Promoting more equitable access to economic opportunities and help ensure that the benefits of the fishery are shared more broadly. <p>OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT pg 21 Guiding Questions bullet point 4 - Granting access to sole or primary commercial harvesters without relying on current permit structuring will promote equity and increase the possibility of secondary stakeholders in underserved communities to participate in management decisions with trust as a feature.</p> <p>BENEFITS: pg 26 Guiding Questions bullet point 1 - Structuring of commercial permitting excludes underserved communities from accessing benefits of management strategies. bullet point 2 - NOAA's fisheries benefits do not reach underserved communities impacted by commercial permit structuring but have the opportunity now, by granting access in their current fishery to sole or primary commercial harvesters providing to the underserved communities.</p>
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6/14/2023	First Name: Zachary Last Name: Wood Email: Woodtrawlerslc@gmail.com	City: Darien State: Georgia	Commercial	Import shrimp is currently flooding our market. The current lack of tariffs have made our domestic product nearly impossible to compete. From inflation on gear/ fuel etc it's becoming difficult to survive with the current market. Prices for domestic shrimp have bottomed out. Please bring back tariffs to give us a chance to compete with the pond raise junk being shipped in here. Thanks for your help!
6/14/2023	First Name: marilyn Last Name: Solorzano Email: solorzanom@aol.com	City: Jacksonville State: Florida	Private Recreational, Commercial, Wholesale/Dealer /Retail	<p>As most of you are well aware the US shrimp industry as a whole is suffering tremendous loss in revenue due to multiple reasons: 1: High fuel costs. 2: Record low price for shrimp. 3: low demand due to the current economic crisis most of the US is experiencing under the current administrations leadership. 4: cost of all goods raising, but shrimp along with most other seafood is priced too low to cover the difference in the cost of goods. Most of the USA seafood industries are struggling not just shrimping. How do we fix this? Limit the amount of imported shrimp that come into America and add high tariffs to ALL shrimp & seafood coming into the USA. ONLY accept imports from countries that have the SAME rules & regulations that the USA has. Make wild caught shrimp a premium product by educating consumers. There are many things that can be done to assist with USA commercial shrimp & seafood businesses, but we have reached a crucial point in the industry where financial subsidies need to be distributed as aid to commercial shrimpers. Many are stopping and halting their productions, causing the trickle down effects of economic crisis to communities & small fishing towns. Families are suffering and in America this simply should not be allowed that working persons who have been successful are now being destroyed by the very Government they have diligently worked to feed. Farmers are subsidized, truck driver raise the cost of a trip, the cost of goods go up to cover inflation, yet our very government allows cheap imports without proper health laws to dump on the USA damaging our US seafood economy. You ask WHAT can the fishermen do? We have worked to bring in Grade A Number 1 product and obeyed all rules & regulations. We have cut every corner of budget possible, yet cheap farm raised imports dump on America. We have written to our representatives, congressmen, and senators only to be silenced. We ask that you the council get into the ears of the Government and help your fishermen. Once our jobs are gone, next are yours. Think about that a minute.....</p> <p>Also as a reminder, I have not forgotten or gave up on the fact that this council agreed to opening a rock shrimp area to trawling off the Florida East coast only to have you all slip in and flip flop the decision, but I will get to that at another time.</p> <p>SHRIMP AP Marilyn Solorzano Jacksonville Florida</p>
6/15/2023	First Name: maynor Last Name: solorzano Email: solorzanom@aol.com	City: Jacksonville State: Florida	Commercial	<p>The shrimp industry is experiencing huge loss in revenue this year due to low shrimp prices to the boats and the high price of goods on everything from fuel to food. This is making it virtually impossible to work. This year alone I have been forced to work less time for far less money. Remaining at port when I could and should be working but buyers can't take the production. We have a wonderful crop this season but the processing plants are full of cheap dirty imports and some of last year's crop that the slow economy has failed to move. As a first generation hispanic captain working is not foreign to me, I work hard and I don't mind working, America has reached a point where the Government is failing the people of this country. We need fuel to come down and shrimp prices to go up. I understand that this is not something the council can "fix" but you do have the ability to consult with Government and ask that the aid us immediately until this crisis ends. Several ways would be an emergency order to subsidize shrimpers while asking for fair laws & rules to be implemented on foreign & farm raised shrimp and allow a fair quantity to be allocated to US shrimpers and work towards lowering and/or giving shrimpers a fuel subsidy.</p> <p>Respectfully Maynor Solorzano Florida</p>
6/17/2023	First Name: Steve Last Name: Proctor Email: steve.proctor@proctorace.com	City: Jacksonville State: Florida	Private Recreational, Wholesale/Dealer /Retail	<p>I see that the council has determined that Spanish Mackerel are not overfished and I agree. The least overfished and most abundant species of saltwater fish including pelagic and reef fish in the Atlantic are red snapper. I would be happy to show anyone on the council proof of this anytime he/she are willing and open minded. I do not understand why this species is under tighter management than any other species. There is NO WAY that allowing fishermen to keep one per person and up to 4 per boat would ever reduce the vast population. I fish in both the gulf and the Atlantic and do not see any difference in the health of the species. Steve Proctor 904-993-9134</p>