

Gulf of Mexico Public Hearing Summaries Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 19

Grand Isle, LA

Traveling fishermen from Florida, especially the east coast, indicated they preferred an increase in the income requirement, thought latent permits should be dramatically reduced, and favored the two-for-one permit reduction proposed by the South Atlantic Council. Gulf fishermen seemed to be in agreement that they did not want to see permits eliminated, but that the additional effort from traveling fishermen was hurting their business.

D'Iberville, MS

Fishermen were concerned that eliminating permits would hurt Gulf fishermen. One fisherman stated that the Gulf should have a separate permit from the South Atlantic.

Panama City, FL

Fishermen opposed the sale of bag limit caught mackerel, opposed eliminating any federal king mackerel permits, and favored eliminating the income requirement for CMP permits.

St. Petersburg, FL

Fishermen preferred no action on any actions in Amendment 19.

Key West, FL

Fishermen in Key West were divided between Key West/Miami commercial fishermen and Naples commercial fishermen. Most fishermen opposed eliminating permits. All fishermen present were in agreement that they thought the king mackerel fishery was very healthy.

**Summary of the Public Hearings on
Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendments 19 and 20**

**D'Iberville, MS
8/5/2013**

Council/Staff

Dale Diaz
Corky Perret
Ava Lasseter

7 members of the public attended.

Gary Smith: Recreational angler

The commercial fishermen he knows complain that the Council is constantly trying to downsize the fleet, which conflicts with free markets. The commercial fishermen are against that. The fish houses want to see the industry shrink. His friends have to fish under a fish house permit because they can't get their own permit. When is the Council going to make their own permits so the fishermen don't have to fish under a fish house, which controls what price they get paid? That's the reality of what the Council has created in this system. They ought to have the ability to get their own permits.

He's against removing inactive permits as he's in the insurance business and you have to be inactive sometimes. For Amendment 19 Gary supports the Gulf Council's preferred alternative (Action 2, Alternative 1); permits should be allowed to go inactive which would allow others to come in and they could get their license reactivated. The Council has increased the commercial red snapper quota but not increased the number of people who can fish it. It would scare him to depend on a fish house owner like the commercial fishermen do. His biggest concern is that fishermen not be beholden to the fish houses.

**Panama City, FL
8/6/2013**

Council/Staff

Pam Dana
Ryan Rindone
Ava Lasseter

2 members of the public attended.

BJ Burkett: Charter and Commercial Fisherman: Hook 'Em Up Charters

Mr. Burkett prefers an October 1 opening for the Eastern Zone, northern subzone (Amendment 20, Action 1, Alternative 3b). He thinks the Western Zone should be reduced to a 1250 pound trip limit. He also thinks permitted vessels should be required to declare the zone in which they want to fish. He needs his zone open when he can fish it. October would be the best time for

him to fish off Panama City. Any one of the three things mentioned would help, but not all of them are necessary.

He also doesn't necessarily agree with the sale of bag limit mackerel (Amendment 19, Action 1). He says it takes fish out of his subzone's quota.

He would also like to see a change in the commercial allocation between the zones, which would shift more of the quota to the Eastern Zone northern subzone.

Randall Akins: Charter and Commercial Fisherman

Mr. Akins is a federal Spanish mackerel permit holder. He thinks there is a problem with the distribution of information, since he did not know that he could sell bag limit caught Spanish mackerel. He also wants a chance to read the documents ahead of time, as opposed to receiving them at the meetings. In the past, he has found words like "estimated" and "probably" in reference to quantitative values- these should be exact numbers, not estimates.

Mr. Akins prefers the elimination of the income requirement for CMP permits (Action 3, Alternative 1)

Mobile, AL
8/8/2013

Council/Staff

Kevin Anson
Chris Blankenship
Ryan Rindone
Ava Lasseter

11 members of the public attended.

No comments received.

St. Petersburg, FL
8/12/2013

Council/Staff

Martha Bademan
Ryan Rindone
Ava Lasseter

8 members of the public attended.

Gary Smith: Retired FL Commercial Fisherman

Mr. Smith has been a king mackerel fisherman for 51 years. He wonders why there can't be a central zone from the Collier/Monroe County line north to Cedar Key. The Martin Luther King Day opening of net season took all those fishermen out of the fishery, and they can't get back in. Give the king mackerel increases to the FL West Coast fishermen, not the Keys. Make it a 5,000 pound trip limit for the few net boats that would fish there.

On changing the trip limit in the Eastern Zone southern subzone (Amendment 20, Action 1), increasing the trip limit to 3,000 pounds with no reduction is going to shorten the season and drive the price down. Naples fishermen prefer the 1,250 pound trip limit, and they have to go further than the Keys fishermen. It would have to be a cold winter to push the fish down to the Tortugas.

Buddy Bradham: Recreational Fishing Alliance, Retired CFH and Commercial Fisherman
The following are preferred alternatives for CMP Amendment 19:

- Action 1, Alternative 1- Selling recreational fish helps cover expenses for the CFH industry. Most commercial fishermen just go along with it. Why not have MRIP have an extra question to indicate whether the fish caught are going to a fish house?
- Action 2, Alternative 1- Don't eliminate permits. If the trip limit is increased to 3,000 pounds, guys who have not been fishing their permits will be able to do so again, as it will become economically feasible to go after the fish.
- Action 3, Alternative 1- Keep the income requirement to qualify for permits. It has worked in the past, and it helps to limit entry into the fishery.

The following are preferred alternatives for CMP Amendment 20:

- Action 1, Alternative 3- For the Eastern Zone, southern subzone.
- Action 2, Alternative 1- Leave the season opening as it is.
- Action 3, Alternative 4- Allow transit through all zones.

League City, TX
8/13/2013

Council/Staff

Robin Riechers
Lance Robinson
Emily Muehlstein
Charlotte Schiaffo

21 members of the public attended.

Scott Hickman: Charter Owner/Operator

The science does not show the damage that has been done to cobia since oil spill. They have seen very few juvenile cobia and would like the Council to consider going to a 1 fish limit.

Shane Cantrell: Charter Owner/Operator

According to the most recent stock assessment the cobia population is in good shape but his eyes on the water are not seeing any little cobia. He would like to see caution with the possibility of missing juvenile cobia. He does not like to lose a fish because he doesn't see the bag increase once it decreases but if it helps ensure the health of the cobia stock he would make the sacrifice.

Grand Isle, LA
8/14/2013

Council/Staff

Camp Matens
Emily Muehlstein
Charlotte Schiaffo

27 members of the public attended.

Don Comron: Commercial Fisherman - Florida

Mr. Comron agreed with participation reduction, stating he would like to reduce participation as much as possible especially on the east coast and he would like to see the reduction 2 for 1 or increasing to a 75% earned income requirement, which he considered the ideal solution. He expressed a desire to see the reduction of part-time fishing, adding that he could not make a living on the east coast of Florida and so he had to travel over to the Gulf to fish. He emphasized that he did not want to keep anyone from fishing if that is what they genuinely do for a living but he did not appreciate recreational part time fishers who made money and filled the quota at the expense of full time commercial fishermen.

Ryan Mallory: 3rd Generation Fisherman - Florida

Mr. Mallory stated that everyone should have the opportunity to fish but the problem was that there were so many people that want to work and jump on the bandwagon when the fishing is good and take away from the commercial fleet who depend on the fishery for their livelihood. He stated that some action to reduce the number of permits would be better than no action, and asked what would happen to the next generation of fishermen? He stated that if the Council went to a two for one permit reduction it would reduce the fishery and increase the cost of a permit. He noted that it costs \$30-50K to get a snapper-grouper permit in the east coast before you ever catch a fish. He asked why the fishery could not just have more fish. He stated that the stocks were fine, and that mackerel fishers filled the quotas, which they would not be able to do if there was not enough stock. He wanted the quota to stay open until Lent when the fish were worth more, adding that when the price goes down its hard to make money.

Michael Sappe: 3rd Generation Fishermen: King and Spanish mackerel on 2 boats

Mr. Sappe asked why permits cannot be taken away from people who are not using them- noting that this is done in other fisheries. He noted that all these permits were taken away because they aren't being used. He added that if 1400 people were in LA catching king mackerel and they all came in with the allowed amount it would exceed the quota, and pointed out that there would need to be enough at least 30,000 pounds of fish per permit each year to satisfy them. He strongly urged limiting the permits.

Dean Blanchard: Seafood Dealer: Dean Blanchard Seafood

Mr. Blanchard stated that the regulations were causing much friction between the fishermen and urged the different stakeholders to cooperate and not argue amongst themselves. His preferences on the actions are:

For Amendment 19 **Dean supports Action 2, Alternative 1 do not eliminate inactive king mackerel permits.** On Action 3, he would rather no one be restricted from having a permit but he supports Alternative 4, Option a. **Modify Income Requirements for Gulf and South Atlantic Commercial Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permits by requiring people to earn at least 75% of their income from fishing to renew or obtain a commercial mackerel permit.** He urged that part time fishermen should not take the place of real commercial fishermen. He would rather the Council not reduce permits at all but if they had to do something then the option of a 75% of the earned income requirement should be enacted. He questioned why permits should be taken from someone, and added that the Gulf Council was funneling everyone into certain fisheries, then after so long saying this stock is overfished. He stated his opinion that the stock was overfished because the Council had created a system where commercial boats were forced to fish single species. He emphasized that there were plenty of fish in the sea, so they should be allowed to fish for them.

For Amendment 20 Actions 2 he backed the idea of having the season in the Western Zone open as late as possible (Alternative 3a).

Tim O'Malley: Commercial King Fisherman - Florida

Mr. O'Malley stated that he first came over to the area in the 70's and had been fishing every year for 25 years in the Gulf. He noted that the 500lb requirement on local fishermen made it harder for them to earn a living when several hundred recreational fishermen from the East Coast came over drinking beer and harvesting 200 pounds of quota each. He stated he has to come over from the East Coast and he had to harvest fish from LA and take those fish away from the locals. For Amendment 19 Action 3 he supported Alternative 4a and noted that if someone made 75% of their living commercial fishing then they were meeting the requirements. He added that 1400 permits were too many, suggesting that the number be reduced to 300, and noted that many of the current 1400 permits were not active. He stated that his quota in Fort Walton Beach was useless since it was so small, that it was met too quickly, and needed to be increased because the fish were plentiful in the Panhandle. For Amendment 20 he supported pushing back the season opening in September in the western zone (Action 2, Alternative 2a) and using a 2007 control date. Otherwise, he suggested not opening it because every little boat on the East coast would descend on the area because the fish could be caught within 10 miles of the beach in the Grand Isle area.

James Turner: Commercial Mackerel Fisherman - Florida

Mr. Turner testified that things were getting worse in the fishery each year. He explained that his trips had gone down from 18 per season to 10 and added that if it went any lower he would be out of business. He stated that there are more and more participants and he kept hearing the Council was going to IFQ's and that there were not going to be any new participants allowed, but there had been not any change. He supported endorsements, and a control or cut-off date of 2007 or 2010. He urged the Council to act now and quit allowing more boats to come over and

harvest the fish. He added that he could not afford to come over for one week of fishing, and that the price dropped with so many people selling kingfish from three areas at the same time. In Amendment 20, Action 2, Alternative 1 he suggested that the season opening date should be left alone so the market was not flooded, adding that if the season was opened when the fish were closer to shore it would close after a week because of all the boats coming over and the quota being quickly filled. For Amendment 19, Action 2, Alternative 4 he supported two for one permit reduction in the king mackerel fishery. He catches his fish and he hates having to travel and have people think he is taking local fish. He urged the Council to either give them more fish or stop new fishermen.

Nick Hill: Commercial Fisherman - Florida

Mr. Hill stated that this was the 12th fishery he has been kicked out of, and that none of his permit losses were based on science. He asked why the Council was constantly changing the rules before stock assessments were done. He lamented that the Council parroted the same broken record and nobody followed the rules. For Amendment 20, Action 5 he believed that changing the framework would only make it easier to make the changes that no one wants before the science says anything. He supports Amendment 20, Action 3, Alternative 1: if the transit rule was put into effect it would be a law enforcement nightmare. For Amendment 19, Action 3 he expressed his opinion that the only way to get a permit is by lying on the form so if you don't fish you don't qualify, adding that if you have not used it in the last 2 or 3 years then you do not need a permit. He urged the Council to be sure if limits were based on landings that the Council do something to look out for people who have new permits but have been fishing them actively.

For Amendment 19, Action 2 – Elimination of Inactive King Mackerel Permits Nick said that if the rules currently in place- (with a qualifier on the vessel) were enforced it would eliminate a lot of fishermen. He expressed frustration that the Mackerel AP came up with various proposals which were then shot down by the International Protocol Team, ignoring the will of the fishermen. He worried that the children of fishers would not go into the fishery because there was no future in it. Action 1: He suggested that the recreational sale of fish should be counted under the recreational quota, not the commercial quota.

Al Cassagne: Commercial Fisherman

On Amendment 19 Mr. Cassagne testified that permits seemed to be an East Coast of Florida issue which followed everyone down Grand Isle. He noted that all he had ever done for a living was to fish and that there did not use to be so many people in the area fishing for mackerel. He added that he had lost his right to some permits as well and does not want to lose another permit. He explained that he has one he doesn't use so he doesn't hurt the quota but he will sell it to someone who wants to fish it and then there will be more people harvesting the permit. He did not have a solution but he does not want his permit to be eliminated and he is worried that this will become like snapper where one person who does not fish will make all the money because he owns the permits. He asked that the Council go back and set control dates/time frames so that people who have not fished an area historically cannot start now.

For Amendment 20 he supported a later opening date.

Jack Robinson: Commercial Fisherman

Mr. Robinson said that this was the 3rd time he come and made comments. For Amendment 19 he would like there to be some type of historical qualifier to eliminate permits, noting that people were getting pushed out of the different fisheries so they were turning into mackerel fishermen. For Action 3 he supported raising the earned income requirement as a good way to eliminate part-time fishermen.

For Amendment 20 Action 2 he opposed a September opening, stating that it would not be good for Texas fishermen who would not get a chance to fish and added that the price would be too low.

He suggested that the mackerel committee should be used more and it seemed that all the suggestions in the presentations were from the Council. Jack also suggested that the two Councils (S. Atlantic & Gulf) should divorce their co-management of mackerel so that it could be simplified and move faster.

Dan Kane: Commercial King Fisherman

Mr. Kane did not understand how the Council could manage the fisheries without doing the math correctly. He stated that there should only be 350 permits with the amount of quota that there is currently allowed. He noted that in 2008 the number of king fish permits almost doubled and added that mackerel needed to be a commercial fishery only. He gave his opinion that recreational fishers did not need so many fish and the commercial quota needed to be increased. He reemphasized the urgency of correct math being used to determine what needs to be done in the fishery. He stated that he lost 2 months of fishing on the east coast of Florida because there are so many fishermen and the fishing over there was not worthwhile, and that he lost over \$200,000 because of the bad math. He stated that there were too many permits and not enough fish. He noted that there were over 50 boats from the east coast in the Grand Isle area, and that the market could only handle about 40,000lbs a week. For Amendment 20, Action 2 he opposed opening the season on September 1st, adding that this would cause the market to flood and the fish price to drop. He stated that there was enough room for 18 or 21 boats in the Western zone, and suggested that the Council decide how many boats can fish in each zone. He suggested going back to historical fishermen of 20 years ago. He urged the Council to figure out how to let people make a living.

Mickey Readenour: Commercial Fisherman - Grand Isle

Mr. Readenour stated that fishermen in the area have had several events that have happened in the past 10 years; hurricanes oil spills etc.; that have limited fishermen from participating in the fishery. For Amendment 20, Action 2 he supported an October 1st opening for the Western Gulf (Alternative 3a), adding that locals who have not been able to participate would then be allowed to because when the quota was reduced to a 3000lbs trip limit it made small boats unable to fish. He suggested a September 1st opening would be fine for Florida (Alternative 2 b&c).

Key West, FL
8/15/2013

Council/Staff

John Sanchez
Doug Gregory
Ryan Rindone

35 members of the public attended.

David Fleming: Commercial Fisherman – Naples

Mr. Fleming is opposed to the 3000 pound trip limit increase for the southern subzone (Amendment 20, Action 1, Alternative 3b). Keep it at 1250 pounds. Remove the trip limit reduction (Action 2, Alternative 4b).

Pedro Almanza: Commercial Fisherman – Key West

At 1250 pounds, the trip limit is too low for me to make any money. He supports the 3000 pound trip limit for the southern subzone (Action 1, Alternative 3b)

Rick J. Matthews: Commercial Fisherman – Naples

Raising the trip limit to 3000 pounds would drop the price of king mackerel and shorten the season. He prefers the 1250 pound trip limit. I am not opposed to the trip limit reduction (Action 1, Alternative 1).

James Cass: Commercial Fisherman – Naples

Mr. Cass is opposed to the 3000 pound trip limit for the southern subzone (Action 1, Alternative 3b). The price would drop, the season would be too short, and he can't transport that many fish.

Patrick Purslow: Commercial Fisherman – Naples

Mr. Purslow opposed to the 3000 pound trip limit (Action 1, Alternative 3b). It has worked fine at 1250 pounds for the past 15 years. Don't fix what isn't broken. Keep the trip limit reduction. Increasing to 3000 pounds would create more problems than it would solve.

Bill Kelly: Florida Key Commercial Fishing Association

For Amendment 19 the FKCFCA prefer no action on eliminating latent permits (Action 2, Alternative 1). FKCFCA opposes the 2 for 1 permit reduction proposal from the South Atlantic Council (Action 2, Alternative 4). We need to create opportunity- not restrict it. We are opposed to an income requirement (Action 3, Alternative 1). We have multi-species fishermen. For Amendment 20 FKCFCA fully supports transit through closed areas from open areas (Action 3, Alternative 4). FKCFCA supports increasing the trip limit in the southern subzone to 3000 pounds (Amendment 20, Action 1, Alternative 3b). The fish stock is healthy. They are not worried about a price drop. This is an opportunity for better marketing. The current low trip limit is hamstringing opportunities. FKCFCA completely oppose Action 4. They are opposed to any IFQ or catch share system. Keep the Gulf mackerel fishery catch share-free.

Josh Nicklaus: Commercial Fisherman – Key West

Mr. Nicklaus prefers the 3000 pound trip limit for the southern subzone (Action 1, Alternative 3b). It is too expensive to fish for mackerel at 1250 pounds per trip.

Billy Niles: Commercial Fisherman – Summerland Key

Mr. Niles has fished for 61 years, often at Half Moon Shoal. It's always been that the price drops when the fish hit Monroe County. He can't land fish because it is too expensive to fish with a 1250 pound trip limit. He says they need more fish. They need a 3000 pound trip limit in the southern subzone (Action 1, Alternative 3b). He is opposed to the 2 for 1 permit reduction (Amendment 19, Action 2, Alternative 4). Charter for hire sales should be under a separate quota. The fish stocks are healthy.

Mario Torres: Commercial Fisherman – Hialeah

Mr. Torres is currently pursuing a Gulf king mackerel permit. It may not be economically feasible to fish king mackerel with a 1250 pound trip limit. He prefers the 3000 pound trip limit increase (Action 1, Alternative 3b).

Bobby Pillar: Commercial Fisherman – Summerland Key

Mr. Pillar understands the argument from the Naples fishermen. The 1250 pound trip limit came about to keep the price up. That was when diesel was 75 cents a gallon. Fuel is just too expensive these days to make any money with a 1250 pound trip limit. If they can't get a 3000 pound trip limit, traditional fishermen will be regulated out of the fishery. 1250 pounds per trip may be okay in Naples, but no fishermen are going out for kingfish in Key West at 1250 pounds. They catch their fish from December to January.

Brian Bennett: Commercial Fisherman – Key West

Mr. Bennett makes more money on kingfish than anything else. He is opposed to the 3000 pound trip limit increase (Action 1, Alternative 3b). The quota will be filled too quickly and the price will drop. The price is great right now. More boats will fish our zone with a higher trip limit.

George Niles: Commercial Fisherman – Summerland Key

In Amendment 19 do not eliminate any permits. He is against the 2-for-1 permit reduction proposed by the South Atlantic (Action 2, Alternative 4). Fuel costs are too high and trip limits are too restrictive. The current southern subzone trip limits are from a time when they had \$1 diesel. There needs to be 3000 pound trip limits (Amendment 20, Action 1, Alternative 3). He is opposed to trip limit reductions. He wants the season in the southern subzone to open on January 1. They need to be able to transit to the closest fish house to offload. Fishermen should have to declare their zone. Fish should be reallocated from the recreational fishery to the commercial fishery.

Daniel Padron- Commercial Fisherman – Key West

Mr. Padron supports the 3000 pound trip limit for the southern subzone (Action 1, Alternative 3b). It is too expensive to fish for mackerel at 1250 pounds per trip. He is opposed to sale of bag limit caught fish. Don't eliminate permits. They need new people in the fishery. Give folks a chance to fish. He is opposed to the trip limit reduction (Amendment 20, Action 1). He

supports open transit through closed zones from open zones (Action 3, Alternative 4). He is opposed to any VMS to monitor transit.

Jason Yarborough: Commercial Fisherman – Key West

Mr. Yarborough supports the 3000 pound trip limit for the southern subzone (Action 1, Alternative 3b). Fuel is just too expensive. Only one boat landed 1250 pounds at his fish house last year. Increasing the trip limit to 3000 pounds will allow folks to fish again and make money. He is opposed to eliminating permits (Amendment 19, Action 2, Alternative 1). They need to preserve fishing opportunities for future generations.

Eduardo Gomez: Commercial Fisherman – Key West

Mr. Gomez supports the 3000 pound trip limit for the southern subzone (Action 1, Alternative 3b). Key West is one of the most important seafood ports in Florida. With fuel costs and distance to the fish, a 1250 pound trip limit is not doable.

Eduardo Sariol: Commercial Fisherman – Key West

Mr. Sariol supports the 3000 pound trip limit for the southern subzone (Action 1, Alternative 3b). They need more fish to make money. Trip limit reductions are unnecessary. He is opposed to any VMS for monitoring transit.

Mike Pierce: Commercial Fisherman – Key West

Mr. Pierce supports the 3000 pound trip limit for the southern subzone (Action 1, Alternative 3b). He is opposed to the trip limit reduction. Fuel is too expensive to make 1250 pounds economically doable.

Juan Blanco: Commercial Fisherman – Key West

Boats used to be loaded with fish. They don't need quotas. More fish coming in means more fish to sell. He supports the 3000 pound trip limit for the southern subzone (Action 1, Alternative 3b). He is opposed to the trip limit reduction. He sees fishermen breaking the law all the time. Fuel is too expensive, and you have to support your mates. He just wants to work. He is opposed to the 2 for 1 permit reduction (Amendment 19, Action 2, Alternative 4). They can still sell the fish. The most they get is \$2, then it drops to about \$1.

Yordy Martinez: Commercial Fisherman – Key West

Speaking for: Himself, and Alberto and Carlos Martinez

Mr. Martinez supports the 3000 pound trip limit for the southern subzone (Action 1, Alternative 3b). He wants his son to be a fisherman. The regulations make fishing hard. He is opposed to the trip limit reductions and VMS.

Marco Herrera: Commercial Fisherman – Key West

Mr. Herrera is a multispecies fisherman. He supports the 3000 pound trip limit for the southern subzone (Action 1, Alternative 3b). The Council needs to give something back to the fishermen. Give the commercial sector some of the recreational quota.

Jose Blanco: Commercial Fisherman – (No Location Given)

Mr. Blanco has been fishing in Naples and Tampa. He's seen Naples fishermen catching four days' worth of trip limits, and then sell them at Naples fish houses. They are in 43' and 39' boats. They are selling 6000 pounds of fish at a time. They are hurting everyone.

Nicholas DeMauro: Commercial Fisherman – Sugarloaf Key

Mr. DeMauro fishes for snapper/grouper and kingfish. He needs a 250 pound bycatch permit for the charter for hire industry.

Omar Manso: Commercial Fisherman – Miami

Mr. Manso supports the 3000 pound trip limit for the southern subzone (Action 1, Alternative 3b). Fuel costs and distance are just too great for 1250 pounds.

Tom Marvel: Commercial Fisherman – Naples

Mr. Marvel travels for kingfish. Maintain the trip limit at 1250 pounds (Action 1, Alternative 1). The season would be too short at 3000 pounds. The price of fish would be too low. Collier County fishermen would suffer; they rely on the spring fish. They have to fish for multiple species. At 3000 pounds, no one will catch more fish. With unlimited transit, more folks will travel. For Amendment 19, he prefers Action 1 Alternative 3b, Action 2 Alternative 1, and Action 3 Alternative 2. For Amendment 20, he prefers Action 1 Alternative 4c and Action 2 Alternative 1.

Randy Wamble: Commercial Fisherman – Naples

Mr. Wamble has to run long distances for fish. He has tailored his business for 1250 pound trip limits. 3000 pounds is no good (Action 1, Alternative 3b). The price and season would drop, and effort would increase. He opposes the 500 pound reduction.

Johnny Brown: Commercial Fisherman – Naples

Mr. Brown opposes the 3000 pound trip limit increase (Action 1, Alternative 3b). 95% of his income is from king mackerel fishing. He fishes alone. He only has 1900 pounds of grouper allocation. He needs the 1250 pound kingfish trip limit to keep the season long and the price up. The 500 pound reduction is not needed. He obeys the rules and does not want to be punished.

Rick Matthews, Sr.: Commercial Fisherman – Naples

Mr. Matthews is a multispecies fisherman. The net ban hurt. He got into stone crab, sharks, and grouper. Now he only fishes stone crabs and king mackerel. He opposes the 3000 pound trip limit because the season will drop (Action 1, Alternative 3b). The 500 pound trip limit reduction is not needed. He would rather spend more time fishing than have a higher trip limit.

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
2/14/2012 10:57:02	Van Hubbard	vanhubbard@captvan.com	<p>on 3.1.2 Alt. 1 no action is ok. 2&3 eliminate most permit holders from Lee to Crtris Counties because we have not been allowed to sell kings but a few weeks every few years since 1986! alt 4 with 2009 control date eliminates most of us because we did get to fish and get some landings the Fall of 2010 because of oil spill in panhandle in 2010! 3.1.3 Spanish alt 1 no action because you have no moratorium on Spanish now!note our areas Spanish landings are soft because wanned to be able to also sell kings to sell enough to afford to fish! your management zones are so varried and inconsistant that it would be challenging to do any changes that are fair. already way to many problems with quotas and trip limits! consider some conformaty? please. 3.3 already limited number of permits No action required. action 5 A current rules are fine. b, cobia could be added to kingfish if you wnat to slow landings yet allow commercial fishermen to sell some. why eliminate income requirements and now? yes hardships need to be addressed! If someone is earning so much he can take time to fish let the needy fisherman have the few fish we can now sell! trip tickets can be considered but hard for some charter captains? 6. I understand Florida is considering a ban on gill nets in thiis state and most of gill netting is here I believe. this may remove your need for consideration? thank you all for your consideration and hard work. Captain Van Hubbard. Guide since 1976 and commercial fisherman since 1972.</p>	Placida, Fl.33946	Charter/Headboat For-Hire, Commercial Fisher

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
3/23/2012 8:27:23	Nicholas Patzig	pmsbigred1@yahoo.com	<p>Action 1. no, their should be no action. Cobia already have management on them and no other regulations are required.</p> <p>Action 2. currently recreational king mackerel have been sold to prevent the waste of a resource when the customers leave on for-hire vessels. However the large problem is to the commercial fishers whos quota is charged with the catch when sold. A special saltwater products license for recreational vessels not selling those fish under a commercial fishing permit should not be counted against the commercial quota but should be counted against the recreational quota.</p> <p>furthermore federal commercial permits are currently required for king and spanish mackerel and their is no need for another permit for cobia. currently florida has a six per boat possession law for cobia both commercial sale and recreational catch this two could be adopted by the other coastal states.</p> <p>recreational tournament sales could be covered under the same salt water products license to cover the sales and take them off the recreational quota not the commercial quota.</p> <p>Action 3. the gill net sector should have been phased out by not allowing the transfer of those permits just as the fish traps are phased out. the condition of those fish caught are bad at best.</p> <p>the hook and line sector has a major problem that needs to be addressed. vessels that home port in other parts of the gulf and south atlantic have been allowed to fish in as many zones and subzones as they wish and catch that zones quota very quick not allowing the local fishermen who home port in that zone. If a zone regulatory is not eliminated then each vessels home zone quota should be the quota its fish are counted against not the zone that the vessel is encroaching in. i.e. if a vessel is home ported in key west and is fishing in the western zone the fish that boat catch and sold in louisiana will be counted against the west coast sub-zone so as to not penalize the local fishermen. but preferred alternative is to eliminate the zones all together that way no one will care if boats fish in your home waters and let the TAC fill but set the same trip limits at 500 lbs for all commercial vessels to prevent flooding the markets and driving down the ex-vessel price and wasting the resource to spoilage.</p> <p>Action 4. should be the more restrictive. as long as the more restrictive is 6 fish per boat commercial and recreational like florida law.</p> <p>Action 5. all income requirements should be eliminated. A fisherman needs the ability to sell what he catches. \$5,000.00 in catch a year may not mean much to some people but it may mean a lot to that fisherman. And how else are you going to attract new participants when the old fishermen die or retire. they will need a way to start or they may have break downs or health issues.</p>	Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548	Commercial Fisher
			Action 6. Cast nets should be allowed but gill nets should be eliminated.		

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
4/9/2012 5:22:20	Mason Bowen	fpfirelb@aol.com	<p>I'm opposed to the use of the 2009 control date proposed by Amendment 19 for different regions of the Gulf because, it would take My Right Away to access different areas of the King Mackerel fishery that I have been a part of all my life. Even though i live on the East Coast of Florida for six months of every year we are considered a gulf fishery. My King Mackerel permit wich i have held for years allows me to go where ever i need to provide a living for my family. The last couple of years that has included the pan handle. Do not talke My Right Away..!!!</p> <p>Sincerely, Mason Bowen</p>	sebastian,fl 32958	Commercial Fisher
6/7/2013 8:04:03	Ed Walker	Info@lighttacklecharters.com	<p>My Name is Ed Walker. I am a king mackerel permit holder from Tarpon Springs, Fl. which is in the Eastern Gulf, northern Subzone. I am also on the CMP Advisory Panel. As you are likely aware fishermen from our area have been effectively shut out of the commercial king mackerel fishery for years. Our subzones quota is almost always filled before any fish migrate through our waters. This is due entirely to the start date of the season. Because of the season opening in July, commercial fishermen from the Western Zone are simply moving over the line into the northern fringes of our region immediately after they fill their zones quota, and smashing our entire zones tiny quota in a matter of weeks. The result is no participation for us year after year in our own waters. We desperately need your help. Our kingfish typically show up here in Mid-October and the quota is filled before that pretty much all the time. Because of this inequity in the sharing of the resource, we have had no opportunity to build catch history and by definition some might call our permits "latent". A more accurate term for us would be "Forced Latency" as we are seldom open when there are fish here. IFQs based on catch history or elimination of "latent" permits would be extremely unfair to those of us essentially barred from participation year after year.</p> <p>What we are asking is the opportunity to fish in our own waters for some share of the quota that was intended to be allocated to us.</p> <p>There was support for moving the start date to October 1 at the AP meeting. It was voted on by stakeholders from across the Gulf and approved as the preferred option. Changing the staring date to October 1 would allow for more widespread participation across the entire region and a much longer season for everyone. The Council has been aware of our plight for several years and I believe that this is a solution to the problem faced by our beleaguered zone.</p> <p>Please consider adopting the APs preferred alternative to Action 2, in Amendment 19: Move the start date of the Eastern Northern Subzone to October 1.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ed Walker 3219 Bluff Blvd, Holiday, Fl 34691 727-421-0346 (I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this by phone)</p>	Holiday, Fl 34691	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat For-Hire, Commercial Fisher

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
6/7/2013 9:49:19	WAYNE THOMAS MARKHAM II	simplyhooked32@yahoo.com	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>Captain Tom Markham here, I am a fisherman from Indian Rocks Beach, FL. I do not get to utilize the King Mackerel Fishery because my home region is always filled before the fish migrate into my local water. I am asking for your help. Kindly change the opening date of Eastern Northern Sub-zone to Oct 1st as recommended by CMP Advisory Panel (Amendment 19 action 2). Once you take action and change opening date to October 1st, it will be the answer with the share regions quota.</p> <p>Sincerely ,</p> <p>Wayne Thomas Markham II</p> <p>10833 Dorothy Lane</p> <p>Largo, FL. 33774</p> <p>(727) 410 6094</p> <p>Captain Tom Markham</p> <p>Simply Hooked FL. 8752LE</p>	Largo, FL 33774	Private Recreational Angler, Charter/Headboat For-Hire, Commercial Fisher, Other

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
8/17/2013 10:40:32	Nicholas Patzig	pmsbigred1@yahoo.com	<p>Public comment and testimony on Amendments 19 and 20 coastal pelagics 6 Aug 2013.</p> <p>My name is Nicholas Patzig, I am CEO, CFO, COO and President of Patzig Marine Services Inc.</p> <p>I would like to thank the council for giving us an opportunity to address the fishermen's concerns.</p> <p>To begin I would like to give a bit of history. I started participation in th commercial King Mackerel fishery in 1966. For the next seven years all of the fish were sold mainly to restaurants as it was more lucrative to sell directly to the user than to a fish house, which served as a middle man, so the restaurants would pay a bit more to the fishermen and the restaurants knew they would be getting todays caught fish.</p> <p>I entered the U.S.Army in 1972 and was discharged in 1975 and served during the Vietnam conflict. I resumed my participation in the King Mackerel fishery in 1978 till present resulting in a combined 43 years also in that time I have performed (3) three studies for NOAA-NMFS. One Red Drum Stock Assessment, one Vermillion Snapper Discard Mortality study with video evidence and one Red Snapper Discard Mortality study with video evidence. I learned long ago that diversification is key and when one fisheries market is glutted and the ex-vessel price drops to an unacceptable level you don't keep catching at rock bottom prices you switch to another more rewarding fishery until the previous market becomes less glutted and the price comes back up.</p> <p>The Sustainable Fisheries Act was enacted while I was serving in the Army and the primary goal was to establish the 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) due to encroachment of foreign vessels fishing in what the United States considered its waters.</p> <p>This is key because this is a similar situation we are now talking about.</p> <p>The Sustainable Fisheries Act has since morphed into a micro-management of all useable seafood and coral within 200 miles of the U.S. Governments jurisdictional waters and in some cases beyond if your vessel is U.S. flagged and fishing on the high seas.</p> <p>This has been, in several cases, to the detriment of the fishermen and the nations user groups.</p> <p>I recently read an article by AP in the local paper that said that only 9% of the nations seafood consumption came from the U.S. producers which if true means that 91% of the seafood consumed in this nation was from foreign nations. THAT IS ASTONISHING!</p> <p>CONCERNING AMMENDMENT 19</p> <p>ACTION 1: Cobia permits should not be created because the largest percentage of Cobia are caught within 3 miles of the coast of Florida and if anyone should create a permit it should be Florida. Cobia come in cycles much like salmon a good migration every 3 or so years. If no spills disrupt their cycle, we have a really good year, much like this 2013 spring. This is when I fish for them commercially because although the King Mackerel are here also, due to the ever earlier closure of the northern gulf sub-zone, we must switch our effort.</p>	Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548	Charter/Headboat For-Hire, Commercial Fisher

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
8/17/2013 10:40:32	Nicholas Patzig	pmsbigred1@yahoo.com	<p>ACTION 2: If King and Spanish Mackerel and Cobia are caught and sold under a recreational bag limit and with a Florida SPL those fish sold should not be counted against the commercial quota.</p> <p>ACTION 3: Gillnet sector will eventually take care of itself. The quality of those fish are not good and sooner than later there won't be much of a market for those fish. In my opinion.</p> <p>Concerning participation in the King Masckerel hook and line sector, the only criteria should be years of participation not landings. Traveling boats is a relatively new sport. It started when IFQ's were being considered and this was an attempt for some boats to pad their landings to get a bigger piece of the pie. This would not be fair to the rest if the fishermen that are diversified and fish within their respective zones and don't take fish away from the resident fishermen if other zones.</p> <p>ACTION 4: Fishermen should only be required to follow the rule of the regulatory authority of the waters they a fishing in.</p> <p>ACTION 5: Income for Commercial permits should be from Commercial sales and not include charter income. This would insure commercial participation.</p> <p>ACTION 6: No Comment</p> <p>Concerning Ammendment 20</p> <p>ACTION 1: If the council is not going to stop the traveling boats than there are only 1 of 3 changes that should be made.</p> <p>1. All zones should be eliminated. The original 3 zones were created because it was thought that the fish from Louisiana did not come east of the mouth of the Mississippi river and thus there were two separate stocks of fish, east and west gulf and the Florida east coast had a mixing problem with the South Atlantic stocks.</p> <p>So there were 3 zones and 3 different TACs and three different trip limits until the Key West fishermen complained that the Gulf Eastern Zone, of which they were a part of, closed a few times before the fish showed up in the keys and the quota was caught and the zone was closed. So the Gulf Eastern Zone was divided, not equally, into 2 sub-zones, North and South and the Keys argued and received nearly 4 times the quota of the northern sub-zone 504,000 lbs to the south and 168,000 lbs to the north which changed the zones to an economic zone thus guaranteeing each zone that share of the TAC. The advent of the traveling boats, gaming the system for an IFQ advantage, caused the now encroachment of the economic zones and the loss of income to the resident boats. I've heard things like "you could travel too" and "we've been doing this for ever". Well they haven't been doing this forever and if the government had thought we could travel too then there would have been no need to create the sub-zones, they could have told the complaining key west boats they could travel also. That should be self-evident of the governments intent.</p> <p>Should the council insist on keeping the zones then each vessel, not permit because a vessel could buy another permit, should be required to pick a zone each year and not be allowed to game the system. Gaming the system should be reason for removal from the fishery. i.e. permitting by a family member and another permit or another</p>	Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548	Charter/Headboat For-Hire, Commercial Fisher

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
8/17/2013 10:40:32	Nicholas Patzig	pmsbigred1@yahoo.com	<p>entity or fleet with permits for each officer of the same entity, etc.</p> <p>2. Another option is to eliminate all zones and go back to a Gulf wide quota including the Florida east coast zone and setting a reasonable 1250 lb trip limit to allow the fish to be used before they are wasted and keep the price up. This would make the traveling and residents alike and if the combined TAC is met and some areas don't get to fish then they will know how it is to not get to catch fish for 8 months of the year until the next fishing season the way it has been for the western zone and the northern sub-zone.</p> <p>3. One other option is to link your vessels catch throughout the fishing year to your home ports zone i.e. where your residence and county your vessel is registered. This way the resident fishermen of the zone you may be fishing in at the time would not loose any of their quota to traveling fishermen. Again any gaming of the system would be cause for you to loose your fishing rights.</p>	Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548	Charter/Headboat For-Hire, Commercial Fisher

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
8/18/2013 13:42:55	Ira laks	Captainira@att.net	<p>My name is Ira Laks. I am the owner operator of a dual permitted vessel. As an active participant in the King Mackerel commercial fishery, I believe we need a two-for-one permit reduction in the king mackerel commercial fishery and an annual average of at least 1,000 lbs of king mackerel from 2002-2011 to renew .If only one option is chosen I believe it should be the two-for-one option. I have heard council members say in meetings that they do not want to remove inactive permits, some council members said that they want fisherman to be able to use inactive permits as tools in their toolbox. The problem with that rational is that the councils have removed limited access permits from fisherman in other fisheries in the past due to inactivity and low landings. Myself and other active King Mackerel fisherman have had these permits removed from our toolboxes without any compensation. If it is now the position of the councils that fisherman should be able to retain inactive and limited landing king mackerel permits and these permits through sale or effort may become active to the detriment of current active king mackerel fisherman, the councils should reinstate any limited access permits removed from fishermen while holding their current king mackerel permit. How can you effectively manage the king mackerel fishery biologically, socially and economically if you have such a large variability in potential effort.</p> <p>Both the SAFMC and GMFMC have taken a leadership role in the ban of bag limit sales of federally managed species in the EEZ. The most important part of leadership is consistency and if bag limits of Cobia and tournament caught King and Spanish Mackerel are allowed to be sold it will be inconsistent with previous actions of the councils. I have listened to and read the minutes of council meetings as well as spoke to council staff in an attempt to understand why Cobia are excluded from the ban of bag limit sales. From the information I have read and heard, no practical or legal explanation have been sufficiently given for the sale of Cobia in the EEZ. As the holder of a Florida SPL with an RS endorsement, I could go on a recreational Headboat trip in the EEZ off the east coast of Florida and catch my bag limit of 2 Cobia and 2 King Mackerel. I would be able to sell my 2 Cobia to a whosale dealer but not my 2 King Mackerel, This would bring into play double counting issues in the Cobia fishery that I thought the councils were trying to avoid. Since a significant number of Cobia will be caught recreationally and sold commercially this should be addressed in the commercial allocation for Cobia.</p> <p>As to the sale of tournament caught fish, I think the councils should have to craft the guidelines for any tournament sales policy with alternatives and the ability of the citizens of United States to be able to comment on a specific tournament policy. In the draft amendment 19 book. North Carolina's tournament sales policy is used as an example.</p> <p>This is from the NCDENR Division of Marine Fisheries: Recreational Fishing Tournament License to Sell Fish The Recreational Fishing Tournament License to Sell Fish is a license available to fishing tournaments that sell fish and requires the designation of a tournament organizer. Proceeds from the sale of fish must be used for charitable, religious, educational, civic or conservation purposes - proceeds from the sale of fish cannot be used to pay for tournament expenses. This license is required for tournaments that sell fish plates or provide free fish plates to tournament participants.</p> <p>King and Spanish mackerel in the EEZ are a public trust resource of all the citizens of the United States. If the states are given the authority to convert a federal public resource into cash to benefit a select few, it will raise many ethical and legal objections.</p> <p>A few questions I have are:</p>	Jupiter fl 33478	Charter/Headboat For-Hire, Commercial Fisher

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
8/18/2013 13:42:55	Ira laks	Captainira@att.net	<p>How many tournaments will be allowed to sell fish? Many fisherman pre fish the day before the tournament, will those fish be able to be sold? How many fish per boat will be able to be donated? Will it be just the fish weighed in or the bag limit for all on board? If its the bag limit for all onboard that can be donated, will that cause boats to catch more fish than they normally do in a desire to be charitable? Will organizations such as the SKA be able to take a charitable tax deduction on the cash donated to a charity? If so that would be of great financial benefit to them. Can wholesale dealers profit from the sale of these fish and who will decide which wholesale dealer is used? If the choice of wholesale dealers is left to the tournaments, it opens the door for quid pro quo relationships. If the number of tournaments who sell fish expand how will this effect the price commercial fisherman receive for their fish? How ironic would it be if money from the sale of tournament fish was donated to a conservation organization and they used that money to lobby to restrict commercial fishing. Can the town of Boca Raton hold a tournament and use the money from the sale of a federal public resource to build a dog park? Will religious groups be able to capitalize from this public resource to promote their beliefs? Sincerely , Captain Ira Laks</p>	Jupiter fl 33478	Charter/Headboat For-Hire, Commercial Fisher
8/19/2013 13:28:01	Charles Veach	Chipkw@hotmail.com	<p>I am a commercial fisherman that catches King Mackerel in the Eastern zone, Southern Subzone. I believe the daily trip limit should remain at 1250 lbs. I live in Key West and I have tailored my business to fish for many species but Kingfish is the most important. Since I have put Kingfish as my number one target fish I have missed out on other opportunities. I lost my marine life license and received virtually no grouper quota. This is why keeping things status quo is so important to me. The prices of Kingfish have risen lately, especially towards the end of Lent. I feel that if the trip limit is raised to 3000 lbs. the season would close before the prices rise and make fishing truly profitable. Other fishermen believe that catching 3000 lbs would make the trips more profitable, this is not the case if prices are low. The 3000lb limit would also bring "trip" fish into the equation, thus flooding the market with poor quality fish. To me raising the limit would create a vicious cycle. If the limit was 3000 lbs more boats would come and fill the quota very quickly. Once closed, I would have to travel from my home and fish another areas quota and that would not be very profitable. Please leave the limit at 1250 lbs so I can stay at home with my family and fish the way that I have for the last 28 years.</p>	Key West, FL 33040	Charter/Headboat For-Hire, Commercial Fisher
8/20/2013 15:10:10	robert quinn	oceanexplorerbelmar@hotmail.com	<p>I am a commercial fisherman that catches King Mackerel in the Eastern zone, Southern Subzone. I believe the daily trip limit should remain at 1250 lbs. I live in Key West and I have tailored my business to fish for many species but Kingfish is the most important. Since I have put Kingfish as my number one target fish I have missed out on other opportunities. I lost my marine life license and received virtually no grouper quota. This is why keeping things status quo is so important to me. The prices of Kingfish have risen lately, especially towards the end of Lent. I feel that if the trip limit is raised to 3000 lbs. the season would close before the prices rise and make fishing truly profitable. Other fishermen believe that catching 3000 lbs would make the trips more profitable, this is not the case if prices are low. The 3000lb limit would also bring "trip" fish into the equation, thus flooding the market with poor quality fish. To me raising the limit would create a vicious cycle. If the limit was 3000 lbs more boats would come and fill the quota very quickly. Once closed, I would have to travel from my home and fish another areas quota and that would not be very profitable. Please leave the limit at 1250 lbs so I can stay at home with my family and fish the way that I have for the last 28 years.</p>	key west florida 33040	Commercial Fisher



8/12/2013

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

Dear Gulf Council Member,

Please let me take this time to give you input from The Recreational Fishing Alliance - Florida West Coast on Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendent 19.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 19 Sale and Permit Provisions

Action 1 : Sale of King and Spanish Mackerel

We Support :

Alternative 1 : No Action

Additional Comment : The for-hire fishermen are required to have numerous licenses, charge for their services and are in the business to make a profit. Banning the sale of for-hire caught fish under a recreational bag limit with proper state licensing increases the potential for enormous abuses, most notably " back-door" or illegal sales of fish left by charter customers.

The for-hire fishery remains a seasonal business and sale of fish increases income for the vessel owner and crew. Even if for-hire vessels were to fish to the recreational bag limit for the purpose of sale of those fish, they are reasonably constained by recreational bag limits governing their trip limits. The Council's rationale for prohibition of these sale is " the potential for double counting" associated with the commercial sale and the MRIP reporting system. The simple solution is for MRIP personal to ask if any of these fish have been sold and so note that in their report. The history of such sales is easily documented by trip tickets issued by seafood dealers.

Action 2 : Elimination of Inactive King Mackerel Permits

We Support :

Alternative 1 : no action

Additional Comment : The Commercial fish have repeatedly asked the Council to increase trip limits to increase trip limits to 3000 for hook and line fishery in the Southern Zone to correspond to trip limits for the hook and line fisheries in the northern and western Gulf of Mexico and the northern Atlantic seaboard. Eliminate the reduction in trip limits to 500 lbs when 75% of the quota is reached. With the cost of marine fuel in excess of \$4.00/gallon, many fishermen can't afford to travel 60-70 miles under the present trip limits and the reduction in the trip limit at 75% of quota further prohibits fishing effort.

Action 3 : Modify or Eliminate Requirements for Gulf and South Atlantic Commercial

Coastal Migratory Pelagic Permits

We Support :

Alternative 1 : no action - Maintain existing income requirements for Gulf and South Atlantic commercial king and spanish commercial permits. To obtain or renew commercial vessel permit for King or Spanish Mackerel permits, at least 25% of the applicant's earned income, or at least \$10,000 must have been derived from commercial fishing or from charter fishing during one of the three calendar years preceding the application.

Thank you for taking time to read our input.

Capt Buddy Bradham
RFA-Florida West Coast
4000 24 st N # 1307
St. Petersburg, FL 33714
727-458-1192
MotherOceanCharters@MSN.Com

My name is Jack Robinson—100 percent of my earned income is through commercial fishing.

The 2012 Gulf king mackerel season was a 53 day opener, a very short season because too many boats showed up; rent-a-boat, rent-a-captain and cheap fish prices. There will be more boats next year. Destin, FL panhandle 2012 season was very short as well. The same scenario: a lot of boats, rent-a-boat, rent-a-captain; one big party. I know the Gulf Council is aware of this problem, and I hope the Council will consider a historical qualifying endorsement, or catch shares.

The historical fisherman will not last with shorter seasons and cheaper prices. The part-timers and job-fisherman will; they can go back to their jobs. I don't understand...Washington wants a reduction in fleet, but the marine fisheries make it so easy to qualify for these permits. There are way too many king mackerel permits for such a small tack.

Amendments 19 and 20 are not good; a September 1 opening would be a disaster, and that would put the Gulf, panhandle, Naples, Key West, Florida east coast, and North Carolina fishing at the same time. It would just be an absolute disaster. The price of fish would crash, and would never recover as we went into the fall season. This is very, very bad for the fisherman. We need to get our king mackerel committee together and solve these problems. I do not know who came up with amendments 19 and 20, but I DO know that they are not in our user group.

Our stocks are taking a beating because of the huge growth of our king mackerel fleet. There are over 1,400 king mackerel permits out there. Should I do the math? There should only be 100 permits to be allowed an averaged earned income with our tack.

Please help the historical fisherman and their families. Please consider all that I have written, as well as my 25 years of experience as a king mackerel fisherman.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jack Robinson

Intelligence and Integrity

Intelligence and integrity are qualities you won't find in Roy Crabtree and company (NMFS)!

This is what is wrong with America today. Today our Government agencies are run by people with the morals of the common thief.

I was raised better than that!

Integrity: moral soundness; honesty; uprightness; rectitude.

Rectitude: rightness of principle or practice; exact conformity to truth, or to the rules prescribed for moral conduct.

I'm might not be intelligent, but I did the 9th grade in 45 minutes. I didn't go to school the last half year of the 12th grade. My last six years of school I did in four and a half years. I'm not slow!

I'm a man of honor and integrity! I volunteered to serve my country. I did six years and ten months in the Navy. I was an electronic technician those years. That job I was paid to use my brain. I doubt Roy Crabtree and company could do that job or that they served in the military, they lack the intelligence and integrity and honor required.

There's an old saying: nobody knows how stupid you are until you open your mouth. Roy Crabtree and company put their stupidity on paper. Amendment 19 and 20 are criminally stupid and will only complicate the problems in my King Mackerel fishery. I call amendment 19 and 20 criminal intent!

Integrity: My father flew the fastest jet bomber America (and the world) had in the 1970's. During the cold war my dad was given possession of nuclear bombs on dozens of missions. Believe me when I tell you that the U.S.A. military does not give these missions to people with less than perfect integrity!

My mother's intelligence and integrity equals that of my Father's. Besides raising seven children she was the president of the Silver hair legislator's for the state of Florida for three years. Before that she was a substitute teacher, a candy striper at school, a little league coach, a cheerleader coach, sold real estate and much more.

Three of my siblings are Intelligent. All my siblings are people of integrity and high morals. Alas I'm the black sheep of the family.

Believe me when I say that no one in the National Marine Fisheries Service measures up to Kane standards! I was raised better than all of you!

I was taught that you are responsible for your actions. That if you break it, you fix it, or you pay for a new one. Roy Crabtree and company are totally irresponsible!

Roy Crabtree and company have destroyed my life with their incompetence. I used to fish King Mackerel twelve months a year. I've lost my three best months of fishing because these fools can't do simple math. In the past two years my loss totals \$100,000 to \$120,000.

I can do simple math. My calculations tell me there should be about 300 commercial King Mackerel permits in the U.S.A. There is not one person in the NMFS that can figure out how many commercial permits there should be with the small 8 million pound commercial quota.

This proves my point that there is not one person in the NMFS that possess intelligence and integrity! You cannot manage anything without doing the math!

We've had a mackerel committee for years. Why wasn't this committee used to create amendment 19 and 20?

Intelligence: 1. Act or state of knowing. 2. Capacity to know or understand; the intellect. 3. Information communicated; news; notice; advice. 4. Knowledge acquired; general information.

Amendment 19 and 20 were created behind closed doors. Without the knowledge that the problem in the King Mackerel Fishery is that there are over two hundred too many commercial permits in use. Intelligence what's intelligence? Read the previous paragraph sections 3 and 4!

I feel that amendment 19 and 20 is criminal intent. The NMFS intends to double or triple this commercial fleet with sport fishermen. They're throwing gas on a runaway fire.

Roy Crabtree and company have no integrity, just criminal intent to destroy our lives!

The National Marine Fisheries should be shut-down!

Roy Crabtree should resign. Roy Crabtree should do time. Roy Crabtree and company should be held responsible for their criminal incompetence.

We will see what Congress thinks of your shenanigans!

P.S. Roy Crabtree and company: may the fleas of a thousand camels infest your crotch!

Daniel C. Kane AKA Huri-Kane Dan 10-29-2012