

From: Jack Robinson [<mailto:arabjack@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 3:05 PM
To: Kim Iverson
Subject: Public Comment SAFMC Meeting Agenda

9/13/12

Dear South Atlantic Council,

My name is Jack Robinson; 100 percent income commercial fishing, 95 percent king mackerel. We have a huge problem on the east coast of Florida too many boats, too many permits, and too many part-time fishermen. The problem has overflowed to the western gulf. The 2012 season was the shortest season I can remember in my 15 years in the western gulf. A 53 day opener freezes prices for our fish, cheap fish. The South Atlantic Council and Gulf Council need to divorce, they need to split up now. This way each council can focus on their own problems instead of everybody focusing on each other's problems. This, I hope, can speed up solutions for all of the problems.

When quotas are filled, job-fishermen get to go back to their jobs. I would like to see new qualifications for permit renewals. This would help professionalize the industry. For 100 percent earned income, the permit qualifier has to be on the vessel. Catch shares would be the fairest way to split up the quotas or endorsements with historical catch qualifications.

The king mackerel stocks are in trouble; we need a reduction in effort. I beg the council to act now and save the fish stocks and the historical fishermen. In my 25 years of fishing, I have never seen it so bad!

I would like to see Amendment 19 and 20 benched now for it is a waste of time and no good to the users. Also, by changing April 1st east coast quota to 7 days before Good Friday, this would assure a good price for our fish.

I beg the council again, consider these options and please move ahead rapidly.

Sincerely yours,

Jack R Robinson
Vessel: ARABI IV