From: Mike Schmidtke
To: Council Members
Cc: Tech Staff
Subject: FW: comment on 2 for 1 and blueline
Date: Monday, August 23, 2021 12:52:52 PM

Hello Council Members,

Please see the following emailed public comment.

Mike

Michael Schmidtke, PhD
Fishery Scientist
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive; Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405
(843) 302-8433
www.safmc.net

From: slshcrkwtrwks@aol.com <slshcrkwtrwks@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 10:11 PM
To: steve.pouland@ncdenr.gov; John Carmichael <John.Carmichael@safmc.net>; Chip Collier <chip.collier@safmc.net>; Andy Strelcheck <andy.strelcheck@noaa.gov>
Subject:

SA Concerns

As a former N.C. SG a.p. member 15 years ago, it's hard to watch the corrupt systemic bias inherent within this council and continue to keep my mouth shut. My first concern stems from the blatant application of fisheries policy that with the 2 for 1 permit sanction on any new entrants in the snapper grouper fishery, has taken the commercial participation down from around 3000 permits back in 1998 to less than , to around 820 when i left the council in 2005 to 484 today....plus a few 225ers here in 2021. I only recently bought another vessel that came with a permit which i did not need since i have a corporate permit on my other vessel and intend to put it on the new purchase. In the process of selling the SG permit to another fisherman, he made me aware that he was sweating bullets since he was down to about 2 months left out of a 1 year time frame to purchase a second permit, or lose the $40.000.00 investment he had already made on the previous. So in summation in buying this vessel and permit i have inadvertently undermined the future of the SA commercial fishery yet again, while this council continues to permit Charter Headboat's as well as allow unlimited expansion of a recreational fishery. Don't get me wrong, i have nothing against either, but i have a serious problem with a council that continues to exterminate one group while allowing the uncontrolled expansion of others. This stipulation alone speaks volumes about the biased management inherent in council and just underscores why our nation is importing over 90% of our seafood. And finally on this topic, when i asked the age of the SG permittee's back in 2005 while on the A.P…i was told that 90% of the permittees were 50 years or older. One can only wonder what age alone has done to the detriment of this valuable fishery over the last 16 years….not to mention in the near future. Even though i have a corporate permit, i will be 69 in a couple weeks. IT IS TIME FOR THIS COUNCIL TO IMMEDIATELY RESCIND THIS BLATANT EXTERMINATION!

My second concern stems from the application of the management plans in place and the councils desire to turn a blind eye to any and all recreational overages while shutting down the commercial fisheries long before they have even reached their minuscule quota's. Take for instance blue line tilefish in N.C., a state that accounts for roughly 75% of the fishery that is supposedly held to a 50/50 rec. v/s commercial quota. For the record, there are 17 SG permits in Dare County N.C. and they caught the great majority of the commercial quota by early August. Conversely, there are over 90 charter/headboats still fishing almost a month after the commercial fishery closed in the same county. . The commercial trip limit is 300lbs. The Charter take is 24 fish with captain and crew landing up to 24 fish. When you factor in that, all the while ignoring the rest of the SA as well as the recreational community, how does a council stick their head in the sand when in the 2020 alone the rec. community was over almost 400.000 lbs on their quota. One can only wonder what the figures will look like this year. So i guess one can conclude that since this council is not interested in addressing what has been a continuing trend since 2014 perhaps the fishery is not in as bad as shape as claimed and one can only wonder when the commercial community will also share in the bounty? Isn't it time to increase the commercial season as well….or at the very least have the science revisited? After all,

it came to my attention that the citation designation in N.C. went from 10lbs. to 12lbs. Does that not speak to a far more robust stock than previously assessed? Since it is my understanding that the stock assessment is not due for another three years i suggest you put this valuable fishery on a fast track. And if that is not and option…..please explain to the commercial community what these continuing overages does to our rebuilding schedule? I would definitely like an answer to that question!

Finally it has come to my attention that there is a new RA on the block. Andy, the commercial community welcomes you as a breath of fresh air. My only hope as well as that of the commercial community is that you follow the law and " distributes the recovery efforts and benefits equitably". That certainly isn't too much to ask…… Sincerely jeff oden