



## SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Duane Harris, Chairman  
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Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director  
Gregg Waugh, Deputy Executive Director

March 23, 2009

Dr. Roy E. Crabtree  
Regional Administrator  
NOAA/NMFS Southeast Regional Office  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Dr. Crabtree:

Pursuant to Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act as reauthorized, the Council is requesting a prohibition on harvest and possession of red snapper to be implemented through interim measures. The Council approved the following motion at the March 2009 meeting in Jekyll Island, Georgia: "Request an interim rule to implement no harvest of red snapper in the EEZ off NC, SC, GA & FL [intent to request an extension for a total of a one year closure and to request the states to adopt compatible regulations]."

The Council also passed a motion to request that the Regional Administrator not publish the final rule for the interim rule prior to the June 2009 Council Meeting.

The Council received notification, in a letter dated July 8, 2008, that the South Atlantic red snapper stock is undergoing overfishing and is overfished and that the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires the Council to prepare a plan amendment or proposed regulations to end overfishing within one year. Permanent measures to end overfishing and establish a rebuilding program are being developed in Snapper Grouper FMP Amendment 17. The Council's current schedule is to approve Amendment 17 for public hearings at the June 2009 meeting and to review public input and DEIS comments during the September 2009 meeting. If possible, the Council intends to approve the amendment for formal Secretarial review at the September or December 2009 meeting.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Bob Mahood.

Sincerely,

Duane Harris  
Chairman

Letter Harris to Crabtree 3/23/09

cc: Council Members & Staff  
Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel  
Scientific & Statistical Committee  
Monica Smit-Brunello, NOAA GC  
Phil Steele & Dr. Jack McGovern, NMFS SERO  
Dr. Bonnie Ponwith & Dr. Tom Jamir, NMFS SEFSC