Since 1769

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FYI

March 11, 2010

Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Director
National Fisheries Service Headquarters
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Lubchenco:

Georgetown County Council recently adopted Resolution 10-04, opposing any fishing area closures off the coast of South Carolina associated with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's proposed Amendment 17A to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region.

Georgetown County would appreciate any support that you may offer in this regard. Should you have comments or questions regarding Georgetown County Council's position in relation to this issue, please feel free to contact the Georgetown County Council office at the number provided below.

Sincerely,

Theresa E. Floyd
Clerk to Council

Enclosures (1)

Georgetown County Council
Post Office Drawer 421270
716 Prince Street
Georgetown, South Carolina 29440
Phone (843)545-3058
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State of South Carolina)
) **Resolution No. 10-04**
County of Georgetown)

TO OPPOSE ANY FISHING AREA CLOSURES OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT 17A TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SNAPPER GROUPER FISHERY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

Whereas, in an effort to address potential overfishing of red snapper, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) is considering an amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region; and

Whereas, the SAFMC is considering closing to fishing a nine thousand six hundred seventy-eight square mile area in the South Atlantic, of which about three thousand five hundred square miles are off the coast of South Carolina, stretching north from the border with Georgia to near McClellanville; and

Whereas, red snapper landings in South Carolina account for only eleven percent of the total red snapper landings in the South Atlantic region; and

Whereas, the National Marine Fisheries Service has already imposed a total closure of the red snapper fishery; and

Whereas, recreational and commercial saltwater fishing is vital to the coastal economy of South Carolina and Georgetown County and employs thousands of state residents directly and indirectly; and

Whereas, according to a 2008 University of South Carolina study, coastal tourism in South Carolina had a total economic impact of over seven billion dollars, employed nearly eighty-one thousand South Carolinians, and generated over two billion dollars in salary and wages; and

Whereas, according to a 2006 American Sportfishing Association study, saltwater fishing in South Carolina had a total economic impact of over one billion dollars, employed nearly twelve thousand South Carolinians, and generated over three hundred thirty-three million dollars in salary and wages; and

Whereas, according to a 2008 University of South Carolina study, commercial fishing in South Carolina had a total economic impact of nearly thirty-four million dollars, employed nearly seven hundred South Carolinians, and generated nearly thirteen million dollars in salary and wages; and

Whereas, any area closed to fishing off the coast of South Carolina under consideration by the SAFMC is unjustifiable and would cause severe economic hardship to the State and its coastal

counties, including significant job loss at a time when job creation is badly needed and is a priority for the State; and

Whereas, any area closed to fishing off the coast of South Carolina will result in excessive fishing pressure on the remaining open areas, causing localized depletion of fish species, further seriously impacting fishermen, employment, and the local economy; and

Whereas, the State of South Carolina, through the Department of Natural Resources, has a vote on the SAFMC; and

Whereas, South Carolina has two additional representatives that are voting members of the SAFMC; .

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved by the Georgetown County Council:

That the Georgetown County Council opposes any areas closed to fishing off the coast of South Carolina associated with the SAFMC's proposed amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region.

Be It Further Resolved that the Georgetown County Council urges the SAFMC to not adopt any amendment that includes any areas being closed to any type of fishing off the coast of South Carolina and asks the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to cast the State's vote accordingly.

Be It Further Resolved that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, all South Carolina representatives on the SAFMC, the SAFMC, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Georgetown County Legislative Delegation.

So shall it be adopted, in a meeting duly assembled, this 9th Day of March, 2010.

Johnny Morant
Chairman, Georgetown County Council

ATTEST:

Theresa E. Floyd
Clerk to Council