Council Members,

My name is Chris McCaffity. These are my comments on Amendment 17 A. I heard a quota by Albert Einstien that " A problem well defined is a problem 1/2 solved". I pray GOD will guide my words so that they define this problem well.

I will begin with the summary of proposed actions.

Specify an ACL and AM's for Red Snapper with management measures to end overfishing and reduce probability that catches will exceed the stocks' ACL.

The SEDAR stock assessment was done with representatives from NOAA, state agencies, the SAFMC, as well as "experts from NGO's and academia. Please answer this question.
Why were the American fishermen whose freedom, businesses and even their very lives are threatened by this SEDAR stock assessment not invited to attend? I agree with the SEDAR review panel that identified SIGNIFICANT SHORTCOMINGS IN DATA AND RESEARCH. The scientist, bureaucrats and environmentalist have used their biased interpretation of the admittedly flawed best available data to set unnecessarily low ACL's. The council has shown gross incompetence in the past management of low ACL's with their refusal to use wise trip poundage limits (TPL's). Your blissful ignorance has created a by catch disaster, financially ruined fishermen, destroyed the market for our fish, and even led to the death of Allen Nelson on Jan. 28. That good man will miss all the joys of raising his infant child because the council said did not think they needed to wisely manage ACL' with TPL's. His blood stains the hands of those that opposed TPL's for all eternity. Your evil plans to take the GOD given freedom of all Americans to fish or access public resources from thousands of square miles of the South Atlantic sea floor based on bad science, borders on treason. Your evil plans to force fishermen to discard every Red Snapper we catch until your data shows we have killed and WASTED the entire ACL is a slap in the face of GOD himself. Your LAW will then take even more unspecified drastic action to stop the capture of any more Red Snapper when the quota is met. Does that mean that the council will shut down the entire South Atlantic when the Red Snapper ACL has been filled? Do you realize that is a very real possibility? Your support of this Amendment will give the council, NMFS and NOAA the authority to do so. (I know all three are part of the same bureaucracy.) That just means there is three times the chance of that the evils of bureaucracy will attack your fellow American's liberty. You will allow scientist to guess at the pounds of fish being wasted. Fishermen should at the very least keep every Red Snapper we catch and report it. You will then know when the ACL is really filled.

Your next proposed action is to specify status determination criteria for Red Snapper.

I have ZERO confidence in the council's or your scientist ability to HONESTLY and CREDIBLY determine any stock status!

The council will specify a rebuilding plan for Red Snapper.

We the people, the fishermen and user groups should agree on a way to do CREDIBLE stock assessments and set FAIR ACL's based on sound science and

data. The user groups should get part of NMFS nearly $1 BILLION budget to come up with a rebuilding plan for the revised ACL's that will follow the mandates in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Your bureaucracy has mismanaged the entire fishery to the point of collapse for decades if we are to believe your bad science and lies.

This corrupt Amendment would require by LAW that fishermen use circle hooks in the snapper grouper fishery.

Does that mean we must fish for Trigger Fish with circle hooks? Do you understand that they have to small of a mouth to be caught effectively on circle hooks? Do you know that if circle hooks are not removed properly from a fishes mouth that they will break it's jaw and cause that released fish to slowly starve to death? This is GOD's good creation that your incompetent LAW will torture to death.

This Amendment will specify a monitoring program for Red Snapper.

Again, I have 0 ZERO CONFIDENCE in this bureaucracies ability to HONESTLY and CREDIBLY monitor ANYTHING!

I would like to thank the good council members that reject these liberty cutting, job destroying, fish wasting and fishermen KILLING Amendments. These words are meant for the voting members of the SAFMC that look down on their fellow Americans with CONTEMPT and pass these Amendments based on bad science and hard deadlines that our "glorious" congress mandated when they let groups like PEW "charitable" Trust write the laws in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Joseph Pew must be sick when he sees what his honorable organization has become. This was his brilliant mission statement. The J. Howard Pew Freedom Trust had as its mission to "acquaint the American people with the 'evils of bureaucracy' and 'the values of a free market' and to inform our people of the struggle, persecution, hardship, sacrifice and death by which freedom of the individual was won."
The PEW "charitable" Trust has unleashed the evils of YOUR bureaucracy on American fishermen. Those evils are destroying the free market for our Nation's seafood. They take American's individual GOD given freedom that has been preserved through struggle, persecution, hardship, sacrifice and death. You and I are their pawns in this game they play with our freedom, jobs and even our lives. I call on every council member that feels compelled to support Amendment 17 A to resign in protest and tell congress that you WILL NOT take your fellow American's freedom and threaten their lives based on hard deadlines that force you to use bad science and write corrupt LAWS based on that BAD SCIENCE! Edmond Burke said this " All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing". We are blessed with freedom few have known throughout human history because of the sacrifices good men made to defend our GOD given freedom. Lady Liberty is dying the death of a thousand cuts from every freedom cutting law that politicians and unelected bureaucrats like YOU pass. The blood that sprays from her cuts YOU made will stain you for all eternity. I do not believe your excuses that "congress made me do it" will be acceptable when you stand before GOD and explain why you took the freedoms HE gave us and forced the waste of his creations and even led to the DEATH of some of his children. You people are Americans and his children as well. Do your duty to GOD and country to defend our Constitution and the GOD given rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I ask you to

consider this. Is the loss of liberty any less tragic if it is taken with good intentions by fellow Americans, rather than by foreign enemies? Your blissful ignorance has become malicious intent to take our liberty, heritage, jobs and even the lives of your fellow Americans. STEP DOWN FROM YOUR POSITION! RESIGN IN PROTEST! DO NOT TAKE MY GOD GIVEN FREEDOMS! I am not opposed to wise management that allows American fishermen to responsibly harvest a healthy and sustainable resource. I am opposed to every aspect of what your bureaucracy is doing at this point. You have to know by now that what you are doing is wrong on every level. Have any of you even read the entire Amendment? Who wrote Amendment 17 A? Is there a level of lost life and liberty that crosses a line that you and this council will not support? DO NOT VOTE TO PASS AMENDMENT 17 A. YOU ARE ALREADY STAINED WITH THE BLOOD OF ALLEN NELSON AND LADY LIBERTY! DO NOT STAIN YOURSELF MORE BY CUTTING HER WITH LAWS THAT WILL CAUSE MORE INNOCENT AMERICAN FISHERMEN TO DIE! Go with GOD and do the RIGHT thing.