March 29, 2010

Re: Wreckfish

To Whom It May Concern,

I Scott Vaeth, owner of Miss Shell Seafood, Inc., am a sheareholder in the wreckfish fishery in the Florida Keys. I invested in this fishery in 2002 and own about 24,000 pounds in wreckfish quota (catch shares). When I invested in this fishery, I knew it was going to be something for the future and have continued to renew my permit each year. Although I have not used my permit yet, I certainly plan to. Just recently, a boat in the Florida Keys found a small number of wreckfish. This April, I, and one other shareholder, plan to try and find more fish in the area. The way the regulations in the South Atlatic are going now, wreckfish are going to be the only deepwater fishery open.

With all the other fisheries trying to go to catch shares, I don't see why you are trying to change this one. It seems contrary to your goal. I always assumed that with only 3 or 4 boats participating in the fishery, this is what the council wanted. If all the boats were fishing and the quota was filled ***every*** year, then the wreckfish would be considered ***overfished***.

I believe the fishery is just fine the way it is and there should be NO changes at this time. Right now, wreckfish is based on catch shares, just like all the other fisheries are moving towards.

Thank you,

Scott Vaeth, President
Miss Shell Seafood, Inc.
Key Largo, FL