March 28, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Capt. Chris Walter and I currently fish out of Hawk's Cay Marina down in the Florida Keys. I am writing you this letter because I am unable to attend your meeting, but am still quite concerned about the Wreckfish fishery and the implementations you want to carry out. I am concerned with the inconclusive data shown in your information that proves the lack of knowledge from those implementing change, the Wreckfish fishery that has been formulated to suit an area unrelated to the Florida Keys, and the Snapper/Grouper permit that you are suggesting for Wreckfish fishermen. My main goal is to become actively involved in the new and improved Wreckfish fishery. I believe I have many positive and knowledgeable attributes that can contribute to a profitable and sustainable fishery for a new generation to come. I hope you take these thoughts into consideration.

Due to my own experience, I know that the current information provided is inaccurate. For this reason, before any new implementations be put into place, substantial research must be carried out in my fishing area. For example, the quality of the product when returning back to the dock is different, as the Wreckfish are located closer to shore. Therefore, I am able to sustain a better quality product to sell, ultimately increasing product value. Another example includes the reporting regulation that states a Wreckfish fisherman must report their catch within 24 hours before returning back to the dock. In my fishing area, this is impossible, as I go on daily Wreckfish fishing trips, instead of the long-term trips known to this fishery.

These Wreckfish guidelines and closures have been based upon a fishery that was founded in completely different waters than the Florida Keys. This has caused implications when trying to abide by guidelines and get information across to the National Marine Fisheries. This is a problem, as the reporting tickets used to report Wreckfish are not suited for the amount of fish I catch on my daily Wreckfish fishing trips. For this reason, I am sending in large-amount tickets that are not only inaccurate of my catch, but a waste of my quota.

Lastly, the Wreckfish fishery has no ties with any other licensed commercial fishery in the South Atlantic. Therefore, as a shareholder, I should have no other obligations to other fishing permits. With that being said, we should not consider anyone else from other commercial fisheries to be substantial participants in our fishery.

In conclusion, although I am unable to attend in person, I hope you can take into consideration my thoughts of concern. By carrying out more research to obtain more accurate information, creating guidelines and reporting materials suited to my fishing area, and excluding other commercial fishermen from our fishery, the Wreckfish guidelines will be greatly improved. I will be looking forward to meeting and working with those individuals interested in improving our fishery and will hopefully be attending the next meeting to further our discussions and research.

Sincerely,
Capt. Chris Walter
305-942-7039

Votes:

Act #1: Alt. #4	Act #7: Alt. #1	Act #13: Alt. #1	Act #19: Alt. #1
Act #2: Alt. #2	Act #8: Alt. #1	Act #14: Alt. #1	
Act #3: Alt. #2	Act #9: Alt. #1	Act #15: Alt. #1	
Act #4: Alt. #2	Act #10: Alt. #1	Act #16: Alt. #1	
Act #5: Alt. #1	Act #11: Alt. #1	Act #17: Alt. #1	
Act #6: Alt. #1	Act #12: Alt. #1	Act #18: Alt. #3	