3/26/2010

Dear South Atlantic fishery Management Council,

I have caught small amounts of wreckfish while fishing for Snowy Grouper and didn't have the permit to keep them.

Last year, 2009, I bought 6,700lbs of the wreckfish quota from William Feger. I plan to look for wreckfish when the season opens in April (I paid .75 a pound).

By 2011 new proposed regulations (17B) will completely shut down my deep water grouper fishery; this is much of our income.

After having only 5 weeks of shark season and no other options in the near future, please let me have the opportunity to fish wreckfish!

I'm happy with the status quo of the wreckfish program. If you open this program up to unlimited snapper grouper (excluding wreckfish) permit holders a domino effect will occur; like in every other fishery!

I would like to see catch shares implemented in every fishery as they are the way of the future. Catch shares eliminate discards and derby fishing. They make every fish accountable. They keep market prices stable and they are economically better for the fisherman.

As far as the recreational boats are concerned; I don't see the sport of hand reeling in a fish in over 1,000 plus feet of water and if your not hand reeling in the fish you must be commercial fishing!

Sincerely, PETE BOEHM