

---

**From:** BOBFISH@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2009 12:38 PM  
**To:** Roy.Crabtree@noaa.gov  
**Cc:** Ken.Haddad@fwc.state.fl.us; Bob Mahood; Bonnie.Ponwith@noaa.gov; voshea@asmfc.org; HULLSSEAFOOD@aol.com; seafoodatlantic@gmail.com; underseas6@yahoo.com; kingbiggs@bellsouth.net; CAPTPAUL1966@aol.com; fishnmore@cfl.rr.com  
**Subject:** Observation concerning the SSC

Dr. Roy Crabtree  
Southeast Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service

Roy,

My comments are not meant to cast aspersions on any member of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee, but are in keeping with the age-old dilemma portrayed in the story, "*The Emperor's New Clothes*." The dilemma of course was who would be the person to tell the Emperor that he wasn't wearing any clothes at all, much less new ones.

Florida is one of the most fishing-dependent states within the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's geographic region. Many of us in the industry have long felt Florida's fishing concerns don't receive enough attention when regulations are proposed by the SAC. We know life is all about politics and accept the fact Florida doesn't have as much sway with issues as we think it should.

For the most part the members of the council, other than those who represent state agencies, are vetted through the secretarial appointment process. There is balance to some degree, although all groups generally feel they are under represented. That makes the process dynamic and it is what it is. At least there is transparency in the highly political council member selection process.

Now that the awesome authority to set all harvest level of fish stocks has been placed in the hands of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, it is incumbent on the national policy-makers to provide equity in the composition of the committee. From our perspective, scientific members are selected in closed meetings so we have no idea what politics goes during the selection process. We have no idea about criteria is used to select the scientists. Is there consideration for balance or anything to indicate why one person is selected and another is not?

Florida has **THREE** members of the Scientific and Statistical Committee and North Carolina has **SEVEN**. I don't have any complaint with the character or honesty of the NC scientists, I just think Florida should have more than three and we need to know more about the ladies and gentlemen controlling our lives. I certainly intend to find out more about them as part of due diligence. My point is, at the current time, the South Atlantic Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee is not balanced in its membership makeup.

Sincerely yours,

**Bob Jones**

Southeastern Fisheries Association Inc.

1118-B Thomasville Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 3230  
850/224-0612