

From: Charlie Phillips <ga_capt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 12:34 PM
To: Kelly Klasnick <Kelly.Klasnick@safmc.net>
Subject: Charlie Phillips concerning Amendment 10

Kelly,

Please pass this along to council members.

Council members, I have read many of the comments on Amendment 10 and unfortunately many of the perceptions are in error.

When the boundaries were put in place we tried to work with the rock shrimp fishermen and persevere the traditions fishing areas as there was no coral in these areas. This area in question is a narrow but highly productive strip of bottom that should have not been included in the closed area. Since it would have taken a longer drawn out process to fix the error then the council decided to go ahead with the current edges and adjust the boundaries at a later date . The rock shrimp fishermen have waited in good faith for the boundary points to be corrected.

No one wants coral to be destroyed including the rock shrimp fleet. There has been talk of sediment possibly causing issues with the coral but the Gulf stream flows North, which is away from the coral formations . I personally have fished from rock shrimp along the ledge inshore of this area and had my boats fishing for royal reds offshore and both places have Northerly tides. There should be no issue with silt sediment from the rock shrimp boats on coral .

I was a member of the council when this was done. There are folks that falsely imply that rock shrimp fishermen may be fishing illegally in closed areas or other equally unfounded accusations because they don't like trawlers, don't let that bias effect your considerations. The fishermen worked with the council in good faith and the council should follow through and work with the rock shrimp fishermen.

Digging,
Charlie Phillips