

Tab B, No. 8(a)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701  
(727) 824-5305; FAX (727) 824-5308  
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

F/SER24:PH

Mr. Lawrence Dickerson  
Chairman  
National Ocean Industries Association  
1120 G Street, NW  
Suite 900  
Washington, D.C. 20005

07 JUL 10 005680

Copy 2 + 3

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

The mission of NOAA Fisheries Service is the stewardship of the Nation's living marine resources. Through conservation and wise use, these resources and their habitat can be managed to benefit the Nation without jeopardizing options for the future. In cooperation with the federal fishery management councils, the Southeast Regional Office is responsible for managing living marine resources in federal waters from North Carolina to Texas and in the Caribbean.

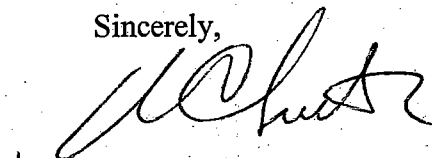
The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council requested information regarding fishing activities from oil and gas platforms. The concern is that workers are catching and landing fish above current bag limits, and these fish are often filleted and brought home in coolers. Current regulations are:

- To fish commercially, you must purchase a commercial vessel permit from a person currently holding such a permit and have the permit in possession when fishing or possessing commercial quantities of fish. (i.e., more than the bag limit).
- Otherwise, persons are limited by recreational bag limits. Persons aboard platforms or vessels are limited to possession of one bag limit for each species per person.
- Fish cannot be filleted, except in quantities of 1.5 pounds per person for consumption aboard a vessel, and must be landed ashore with head and fins intact. State laws generally also have this requirement.
- Enforcement officers can inspect all vessels or aircraft carrying persons to or from offshore facilities.
- Multiple violations aboard the same vessel or aircraft may result in taking sanctions against the vessel or aircraft, including seizure.



I would appreciate if you could provide me with actions that members of your organization have taken to address fishing by workers on offshore oil and gas platforms. If you have further questions or need clarification on the issue, please contact Peter Hood (phone: 727-551-5728; email: peter.hood@noaa.gov) of my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Crabtree". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

✓ Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.  
Regional Administrator

cc: GMFMC - Wayne Swingle