



GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Airport Executive Center

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November 8, 2007

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Dr. Alex Chester
 Director, SEFSC
 National Marine Fisheries Service
 75 Virginia Beach Dr.
 Miami, FL 33149

Dear Dr. Chester: *Alex*

We request that the SEFSC evaluate the risks of allowing harvest of red drum from the EEZ to collect data for stock assessments and advise us on how many fish would be needed to be harvested. The Council charge to our Ad Hoc Review Panel for Red Drum was to begin a long-term research program to collect age-structure information. Because red drum were previously classified as subject to overfishing and overfished, and as the status is currently unknown, we felt the starting point for addressing the Council's charge was to seek the SEFSC's advice on the risk of such data collection, followed by a determination on the number of fish that should be collected from the EEZ.

Please advise us if these analyses can be completed for the January 28-31, 2008 Council meeting.

Best personal regards,

Tom 
 Tom McIlwain
 Chairman

c: Gulf Council
 Technical Staff
 Ad Hoc Review Panel for Red Drum

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