

Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association

P.O. Box 501404, Marathon, FL 33050

Phone & Fax: 305-743-0294 Cell: 305-619-0039
E-mail: FKCFA1@hotmail.com Website: FKCFA.Org

March 3, 2014

Mr. Ben Hartig, Chairman & Council Members
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive
N. Charleston, SC 29405

Re: Joint Mackerel Amendment 20B

Dear Mr. Hartig & Council Members,

"The best laid schemes of mice and men often go awry." Robert Burns, 1786

Individuals making the case not to raise king mackerel trip limits in the Southern Sub-Zone have repeatedly cited the need for protection from an early seasonal closure because the quota would be caught sooner and the need to maintain price stability by not flooding the market. Yet, during a 2-3 week period in February of this year, that is exactly what occurred without giving Monroe County fishermen so much as an ounce of increase in their daily trip limit.

Approximately 28 kingfish permit holders and crews with trailered boats from Jupiter, Ft. Pierce and Daytona Beach arrived at marinas in Everglades City, Goodland and Naples and fished roughly during the period of February 3-19, 2014. With only short distances to run (usually no more than 15 miles each way), they were able to make multiple daily trips during their stay and on February 21, 2014 the season was officially brought to a close – six weeks early.

In the meantime Keys fishermen, generally operating much larger vessels and traveling far greater distances up to 60 miles each way to catch fish, are denied a reasonable trip limit that would allow them to generate a modest profit. These are everyday, hard-working fishermen engaged in multi-species fisheries simply trying to make a living and counting on the increase in trip limits promised them over 18 years ago when the kingfish rebuilding program began. 82 of them signed affidavits (see attached list) to that effect and they were presented to the Mackerel Committee Chair at the GMFMC meeting last month in Houston, TX.

We urge the Councils to re-address the trip limit for the Southern Sub-Zone and support a modest increase from 1250# to 2000# with no step-down. Additionally, we would like the Councils to consider making kingfish permits region-specific or at least separated Gulf and South Atlantic, which will better address concerns of those in neighboring counties about early closures.

Sincerely,

s/Bill Kelly

Capt. Bill Kelly
Executive Director

C: Mr. Doug Boyd, Chairman - GMFMC

Office Physical Address: 6363 Overseas Highway, Suite #4, Marathon, FL

Subject: FW: king mackerel
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 11:07:02 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: Charlene Ponce

From: Doug Gregory <doug.gregory@gulfcouncil.org>
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 11:02 AM
To: Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>
Subject: king mackerel

From: Bill Kelly [mailto:fkcf1@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 7:42 AM
To: Doug Gregory
Subject: FW: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

FYI - sent to your old address.

Capt. Bill Kelly, Executive Director
Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
PO Box 501404
Marathon, Florida 33050
305-619-0039 C
305-743-0294 F
FKCFA1@hotmail.com
www.FKCFA.org

From: postmaster@mail.hotmail.com
To: fkcf1@hotmail.com
Date: Wed, 5 Feb 2014 04:35:27 -0800
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

This is an automatically generated Delivery Status Notification.

Delivery to the following recipients failed.

gregory-doug@monroecounty-fl.gov

--Forwarded Message Attachment--

From: fkcf1@hotmail.com
To: pamdana@yahoo.com
CC: douglassboyd@yahoo.com; mackattackben@att.net; gregory-doug@monroecounty-fl.gov;

robert.mahood@safmc.net; roy.crabtree@noaa.gov; ddrum@mobiletel.com;
corky.perret@dmr.state.ms.org; jmsanchez22@aol.com; robert.shipp@gulfcouncil.org;
martha.bademan@myfwc.com; roywilliams@comcast.net; kevin.anson@dcnr.alabama.gov;
robin.reichers@tpwd.state.tx.us

Subject: King Mackerel Hook & Line Trip Limits in the Southern Sub-Zone

Date: Wed, 5 Feb 2014 07:35:24 -0500

Dear Pam & Mackerel Committee Members.

Much debate has taken place regarding hook and line trip limits in the King Mackerel Southern Sub-Zone. We consider this an issue dealing primarily with fairness in allocation and a commitment made to stakeholders that once the stock was rebuilt everyone would reap the benefits of their conservation measures. In their consideration of provisions to increase the limit for hook and line fishermen in the Southern Sub-Zone, the SAFMC and their Mackerel Committee and the GAFMC Mackerel Committee all voted to approve an increase from the existing 1250 pounds with a step-down to 500 pounds at 75% of quota to a straight 2000 pounds with no step down.

Regrettably, the Gulf Council opted to vote down the measure at their last meeting in New Orleans and remanded it to the South Atlantic Council where this past December both their Mackerel Committee and the full Council reversed their decisions and also voted to maintain the current 1250 pound limit.

There were a total of 82 people that attended public comment sessions regarding Amendments 20A & 20B. Of that total 28 persons gave public testimony regarding an increased trip limit. 10 of them were opposed to an increase with 9 of them from Naples, FL and 1 from St. Petersburg. 18 persons were in favor of an increase and all of them were from Monroe County, FL.

Monroe County stakeholders are not asking for the moon or even parity with their fellow fishermen to the north on both sides of the Florida peninsula where trip limits of 3000 pounds apply, but simply a modest increase of 750 pounds with no step down to offset increased costs of fuel and provide a modest level of profitability.

I have attached, for your consideration, a roster of 82 stakeholders in the hook and line fishery in Monroe County. All have completed affidavits which I will present to you at Wednesday's meeting affirming their desire for fairness in allocation in the fishery. Our request for a 2000 pound trip limit represents a reasonable compromise and one we hope you will reconsider. It would not significantly impact other stakeholders yet provide some relief and benefit to more than 100 permit holders in Monroe County, FL.

Sincerely,

Capt. Bill Kelly

Capt. Bill Kelly, Executive Director
Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
PO Box 501404

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ADVOCATES FOR FAIRNESS IN KING MACKEREL ALLOCATIONS
GMFMC MEETING – HOUSTON, TEXAS
FEBRUARY 3, 2014

JOINT MACKEREL AMENDMENT 20B – SUPPORTING A DAILY TRIP LIMIT
INCREASE FROM 1250# TO 2000# IN THE GOMEX SOUTHERN SUB-ZONE

<u>STAKEHOLDER</u>	<u>BOAT NAME</u>	<u>DOCKED</u>
1. Adams, Daniel	Bigfoot	Fish Busterz
2. Alejandro, Dominguez	2 Hermanos	Fish Busterz
3. Arencibia, Francisco	Maru	Fishmen Seafood
4. Arencibia, Frank, Sr.	Maru	Fishmen Seafood
5. Arencibia, Santi	Janessa	Fishmen Seafood
6. Arnold, William	Y-No	Fish Busterz
7. Auaya, Pablo	My Twins	Fish Busterz
8. Balega, Jair	Miss Cholita	Fish Busterz
9. Beemon, Wade	FL7492EG	Fishmen Seafood
10. Bentley, Zach	Conchcubine	Hurricane Hole
11. Blanco, Anthony	Bigfoot	Fish Busterz
12. Blanco, David	One of a Kind	Fish Busterz
13. Blanco, J.J.	One of a Kind	Fish Busterz
14. Blanco, Jorge	Gatina	Fish Busterz
15. Blanco, Juan	One of a Kind	Fish Busterz
16. Blanco,, Rene	Bigfoot	Fish Busterz
17. Blues, Arculi	Bigfoot	Fish Busterz
18. Boza, Antonio	Cary	Fish Busterz
19. Boza, Eddie	Betty	Fish Busterz
20. Bosa, Eduardo	Betty	Fish Busterz
21. Bravo, Williams	Sea Boy	Fish Busterz
22. Brennan, Patrick	Bella	Fishmen Seafood
23. Calero, Jorge	Yully	Fish Busterz
24. Concepcion, Onel	Sea Boy	Fish Bsterz
25. Conuegra, Jose	Deysi	Fish Busterz
26. Delph, Michael	Screaming Mosquito	Private Dock
27. Diaz, Barbara	Blanca-Rosa III	Fishmen Seafood
28. Diaz, Jesus	Blanca-Rosa III	Fishmen Seafood
29. Diaz, Poelmis	Maru	Fishmen Seafood
30. Edwards, Richard	Darin	Fish Busterz
31. Estela, Raimel	Maru II	Fishmen Seafood
32. Estela, Yoel	Michel II	Fish Busterz
33. Fernandez, Joel	Miss Cholita	Fish Busterz
34. Fernandez, Jorge	Capitan L II	Fish Busterz
35. Ferrell, Rosaura	Espy	Fishmen Seafood
36. Franklin, Ben	FL7492EG	Fishmen Seafood
37. Garcia, Orlando	La Gatica	Fish Busterz
38. Gomez, Alva	Alva	Fish Busterz

39. Gomez, Eduardo	Alva	Fish Busterz
40. Gomez, Eduardo, Jr.	Alva II	Fish Busterz
41. Gonsalez, Victor	Perdaito	Fish Busterz
42. Griffith, Edmund	Capt. Andy	Stock Island Marina
43. Hernandez, Jesus	Espy	Fishmen Seafood
44. Hernandez, Martha	Espy	Fishmen Seafood
45. Hernandez, Rigoberto	Sugar Daddy	Fish Busterz
46. Herrera, Marco	M&M Too	Safe Harbor Marina
47. Hilliard, Michael	M&M Too	Safe Harbor Marina
48. Lazaro, Alonzo	Espy	Fishmen Seafood
49. Macias, Michael	Betty la Fea	Fish Busterz
50. Macias, Tony	Betty la Fea	Fish Busterz
51. Manzo, Omar	Omega	Fish Busterz
52. Marffi, Luis	Erena	Fish Busterz
53. Martell, Esnide	Blanco-Rosa III	Fishmen Seafood
54. Martine, Luis	Omega	Fish Busterz
55. Medero, Jesus	Espy	Fishmen Seafood
56. Morales, Antonio, Jr.	Erena	Fish Busterz
57. Morales, Cary	Betty	Fish Busterz
58. Muguelza, Juan	Blanco-Rosa III	Fishmen Seafood
59. Nicklaus, Josh	Capt. R&R	Carlos Seafood
60. Niles, George	Bella	Fishmen Seafood
61. Olamos, Angel	Yena II	Fish Busterz
62. Padron, Daniel	FL7492EG	Fishmen Seafood
63. Pantoja, Roberto	Espy	Fishmen Seafood
64. Perez, Osniel	Capt. Lady II	Fish Busterz
65. Perera, Hector	G.D.	Fish Busterz
66. Peters, Chad	M&M	Sunset Marina
67. Pierce, Mike	Darian	Fish Busterz
68. Pierce, Neal	Full House	Fish Busterz
69. Pierce, Sarah	Full House	Fish Busterz
70. Planelli, Leopoldo	Lucky Lindy	Fish Busterz
71. Ravelo, Ruben	Maru II	Fishmen Seafood
72. Reyes, Yoslainer	Michell-II	Fish Busterz
73. Rivera, Feliber	Great White Shark	Fish Busterz
74. Rodriguez, Leonardo	Teresita	Fish Busterz
75. Ruis, Danuel	Omega	Fish Busterz
76. Sanchez, Ed	--	--
77. Sariol, Eduardo	Alva	Fish Busterz
78. Sariol, Josefina	Alva II	Fish Busterz
79. Sellers, Steven	M&M Too	Safe Harbor Marina
80. Simek-Mesa, Carlos	Sea Boy	Fish Busterz
81. Valdez, Aldalberto	Blanca Rosa III	Fishmen Seafood
82. Vila, Golo	Perdrito	Fish Busterz

ADVOCATES FOR FAIRNESS IN KING MACKEREL ALLOCATIONS

December 26, 2013

Mr. Doug Boyd, Chairman & Council Members
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N. Lois Ave, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607
210-710-8752

Mr. Ben Hartig, Chairman & Council Members
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
N. Charleston, SC 29405
772-546-1541

Re: Joint Mackerel Amendment 20B – Increase in hook and line trip limits in the Southern Sub-Zone

Messrs. Boyd, Hartig & Council Members,

I am a hook and line mackerel fishermen operating in the Southern Sub-Zone of the Gulf of Mexico. For 18 years commercial fishermen like me have been struggling under an antiquated daily trip limit of 1250 pounds with a step-down to 500 pounds at 75% of quota. We patiently waited for king mackerel stocks to rebuild over the past 20 years anticipating a greater role in harvesting one of the most under-utilized stocks in the Gulf of Mexico only to see others in the Northern Gulf and along the East Coast of Florida reap the benefits of higher trip limits while we remain the same.

In September of 2013 the SAFMC and their Mackerel Committee voted to approve an increase to 2000 pounds with no step-down. The Gulf Council's Mackerel Committee also voted to approve an increase to 2000 pounds at their October meeting in New Orleans only to be over-ruled by the full Council. 20B was remanded to the SAFMC for their December 2013 meeting at which time both the Council and the Mackerel Committee reversed their previous decisions and concurred with the Gulf Council to keep the limit at 1250 pounds.

This is a gross injustice to the hardworking men and women of Monroe County that have contributed as much, if not more, to the rebuilding of both the Gulf and Atlantic stocks of king mackerel. All of this perpetrated at the behest of several small, special interest groups of mackerel fishermen from the Southwest and Northeast regions of Florida reaping the rewards of the rebuilding effort.

I hereby petition both the Gulf and South Atlantic Fishery management Councils to reconsider this grossly unfair trip limitation in the Southern Sub-Zone and ask you to approve an increase in the daily hook and line trip limit to 2000 pounds with no step-down.

Respectfully,

Name _____ Date _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Vessel Name _____ Docked at _____

Subject: FW: King Mackerel Trip Limits

Date: Thursday, November 7, 2013 10:55:14 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: Charlene Ponce

To: Charlene Ponce

From: Bill Kelly [<mailto:fkcf1@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 3:36 PM

To: Myron Fischer

Subject: King Mackerel Trip Limits

Myron,

Regrettably, I am unable to make the GMFMC meeting due to other commitments. In discussions with Council members at the SAFMC meeting in Charleston, there was agreement that increasing trip limits to 2000# was a reasonable request without disrupting market trends or pricing. Our fishermen in Monroe County must travel 40-60 miles each way to harvest kingfish as compared to 10-15 miles for Collier County fishermen. It's ironic that 3000# trip limits in the Northern Gulf and the East Coast do not disrupt pricing or market demand but a modest increase for Monroe County fishermen is portrayed as ruinous to the industry. This is such a minimal increase but one that would at least make it financially viable for our fishermen to earn a living.

An increase would also be a valuable opportunity to gauge involvement in the fishery and address latent permits. Even that slight increase should give us some indication of interest in the fishery. A 2000# limit doesn't even bring us close to parity with other fishermen or even close to equal allocation of the resource.

We also respectfully request transit authority for any legally caught fish through state waters to Florida ports. The state is in agreement with this request and so was the SAFMC.

Sincerely,

Bill Kelly

Capt. Bill Kelly, Executive Director
Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
PO Box 501404
Marathon, Florida 33050
305-619-0039 C
305-743-0294 F
FKCFA1@hotmail.com
www.FKCFA.org

The Criminals endeavor

Amendment 19 and 20 in the King Mackerel fishery has become/is a criminal endeavor.

For decades I made a good living King Mackerel fishing twelve months a year. These past five years I've lost two to three months of my best fishing do to the criminal incompetence of Roy Crabtree and company (The National Marine Fishery Service)!

For the past five years I've explained to Roy Crabtree & company that there are too many participants in my King Mackerel fishery. I've used math to explain why there should be only 300 King Mackerel permits with a small 8,000,000 quota. Time and time again I've explained to Roy's fools that you can't manage anything without using math. Using math is intelligent. Not using math is retarded!

The criminal endeavors NMFS is employing in my King Mackerel fishery is spelled out in the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council News Release, Sept. 23, 2013.

1st they are going to allow Sport fishing tournaments to sell the King fish caught during their tournaments. They plan on giving them a commercial license. This is illegal. This is what Webster's Dictionary calls a conspiracy!

Conspiracy: (Law) An agreement to do an unlawful act, or to do a lawful act in an unlawful manner.

Next the News Release states that they conspire: not to eliminate inactive commercial King mackerel permits; to remove the income requirement for commercial king mackerel permits. This is clearly a conspiracy to give sport-fishermen 65% to 70% of the commercial permits!

There are over 1400 commercial permits in circulation. Today there are about 500 being used. That 250 of these permits weren't being used prior to 2008 allowed me to fish twelve months a year. The fleet doubled after 2008 this too many participants has put me out of work 2 to 3 months a year, costing me over \$235,000 in the past five years. I've done the math!

Roy Crabtree and company have identified this problem and decided to use it to destroy as many commercial King-mackerel fishermen lives as possible.

To support today's 500 commercial King-fishermen the commercial quota should be increased to 14,000,000 pounds or more. I've done the math. To support 14,000 fishermen the commercial quota should be over 35,000,000 pounds. This is not feasible! To not eliminate the inactive commercial King mackerel license's totally retarded. This is called mismanagement!

Mismanage: To manage ill or improperly

The criminal incompetence doesn't stop there!

Roy Crabtree & company are planning on changing the starting date for the Western sub-zone (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama) from July 1st to September 1st. This is just plain wrong! This is for the Shrimpers they say. What about the King Mackerel fishermen?

This year (2013) there was one Shrimper that participated in the King mackerel fishery. Last year there were two Shrimpers that King fished. The Shrimpers do not rely on King fishing to pay their bills. The King Mackerel fishermen do rely on King fishing to pay their bills.

There's five or six Shrimpers in Grand Isle that haven't King fished since the daily landing was unlimited or the landing limit was 10,000 pounds (15 to 20 years ago). They are going to change the law for these few shrimpers that are living in the past. What about the King fishermen trying to pay today's bills?

Changing the start date to Sept. 1st will eliminate Texas from this fishery. The majority of the Gulf King fish spend the summer off the Texas/Louisiana border. The snapper fishermen out of Leesville La. Fish this area and will catch a limit of King mackerel in addition to their Snapper. That will put a stop to that.

A September 1st opening will flood the market and make the King-fish caught in the Florida Pan-handle during this time worth a lot less.

Amendment 19 and 20 is clearly a criminal endeavor.

To reduce the number of permits, to ensure that only commercial fishermen possess the commercial King mackerel permits. Try this solution. To retain your King-fish license you must sell.

1. 10,000 pounds of King mackerel a year or
2. 5,000 pounds of King Mackerel and 10,000 pounds of Snapper/Grouper/or Shrimp the Crabbers will have a smaller number or
3. If zero pounds of King-fish is sold 20,000 pounds of Snapper/Grouper/ or Shrimp again the Crabbers weight would be much smaller. or
4. \$20,000 of seafood products.

You must fulfill one of the above at least two out of every three years. Fishermen over the age of 62 should be exempt.

Amendment 19 & 20 are legally wrong! Don't do this!

Captain

Daniel C. Kane

10-31-2013

Subject: Amendment 20B, Sec 2.2 Change our zone season start date to October. YES!

Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:46:03 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Captain Ed Walker

To: Gulf Council

My name is Ed Walker

I am a commercial/charter operator in the king mackerel GULF EASTERN ZONE-NORTHERN SUBZONE - Tampa Bay area. Im on the mackerel AP. For ten years now the king mackerel fishery here has closed just as the fish arrive, including this year. Permit holders from Cedar key to Naples have been effectively eliminated from king mackerel fishing in our own waters by the July opening date of the season. West Central Florida's season for king mackerel is the fall when they transition from north to south. Our zones quota (smallest in the Gulf) is almost always filled in the Northern part of the zone in the summer, and closes before the fish get here. As your AP realized, opening the season in October would allow fishermen from the *entire* zone: upper, middle and lower, a portion of the quota, rather than skewing it in favor of northern/summer part of the zone as it stands now. After lengthy discussion, the Mackerel AP agreed and made it their preferred alternative. We dont want all the fish but we'd like the opportunity to sell some from our home waters during the fall migration.

Changing the start date would open it up when there are fish across the entire zone, not one part of it. As a permit holder who has been excluded for the better part of a decade, Im asking for your help. Please vote in favor of the preferred option on amendment 20B, Section 2.2, Alt 3, Option B: CHANGE THE FISHING SEASON FOR GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL TO OCTOBER 1 –SEPT 30, EASTERN ZONE-NORTHERN SUBZONE ONLY.

The Advisory Panel has it right. Moving the opening date of the season to October 1 will allow the greatest participation in the fishery, spread economic benefits across a wider area, and support more coastal communities.

Thank you for your consideration

Ed Walker

Subject: Commercial King Mackerel in Eastern Zone

Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 11:57:28 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Rusty Bellies- Pelican Point Seafood

To: Gulf Council

My name is Steve Reis, I manage Pelican Point Seafood of Tarpon Springs in West Central Florida, part of the EASTERN ZONE-NORTHERN SUBZONE. For years now we have been effectively eliminated from fishing king mackerel in our home waters by the July opening date of the season. The fish migrate here in the fall but our zones quota is almost always filled before they arrive. We, who's season is in the fall, are forced out year after year. Our guys want to fish.

We very much need your help to allow us to participate in our own local fishery. I am writing today to urge you to vote in favor of the GULF AP PREFERRED OPTION ON AMENDMENT 20B, SECTION 2.2, ALTERNATIVE 3, OPTION B: **CHANGE THE FISHING SEASON FOR GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL TO OCTOBER 1 –SEPT 30M, EASTERN ZONE-NORTHERN SUBZONE ONLY.**

Opening the season in October will allow fishermen in all areas of the zone to participate, rather than just one. This adjustment to the season start will make a huge difference for fishermen from Cedar key to Naples where there are few kings until the fall.

Again, please support the preferred alternative drafted by the stakeholders in your Gulf Advisory Panel on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Reis

General Manager of Pelican Point Seafood of Tarpon Springs

Subject: comments on rule 20B, sec. 2.2, action 2. thank you.

Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 11:24:45 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Van Hubbard

To: Gulf Council

CC: Captain Ed Walker, Martin Fisher

(YES on) Mackerel Amendment 20B, Section 2.2, Action 2. *Change fishing season for Eastern Zone-Northern Subzone*

My name is Vanley D. Hubbard permit holder KM 887, I'm a commercial fisherman, home port in Charlotte County, Placida Fl. in West Central Florida, known as the EASTERN ZONE-NORTHERN SUBZONE. Ever since the July opening date was established we have been effectively eliminated from fishing king mackerel in our home waters by the July opening date of the season. The fish migrate come here in the fall but our zones quota is almost always filled before they arrive. We who's season is in the fall are forced out year after year. We want to fish. It's closed here both spring and fall as fish pass by us? Kingfish was and needs to be reestablished here as the few permit holders remaining here need access to our fishery, please.

We very much need your help to allow us to participate in our own local fishery. I am writing today to urge you to please vote in favor of the GULF AP PREFERRED OPTION ON AMENDMENT 20B, SECTION 2.2, ALTERNATIVE 3, OPTION B: **CHANGE THE FISHING SEASON FOR GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL TO OCTOBER 1 –SEPT 30M, EASTERN ZONE-NORTHERN SUBZONE ONLY.**

Opening the season in October will allow fishermen in all areas of the zone to participate, rather than just northern fishermen. This adjustment to the season start will make a huge difference for fishermen from Cedar key to Ft. Myers where there are few kings until the fall season. It would be nice to fish in the Spring also but most years and this is an example I get shut down here just as fish arrive. As I have also entered into your records several times a smaller daily catch of even 500 pound or more would allow us to catch both Spanish and king mackerel cost effectively. We can not make money without some kingfish!

Again, please support the preferred alternative drafted by the stakeholders in your Gulf Advisory Panel on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration

Vanley D. Hubbard KM 887

PO Box 146

Placida, Fl 33946

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Captain Van Hubbard

www.captvan.com

PH 941-740-4665

Subject: FW: Important Comments from South Florida Fishermen Regarding Mackerel Amend. 20
Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2013 9:01:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Charlene Ponce
To: Charlene Ponce

----- Original Message -----

From: BRIAN BENNETT
To: palmettobooks@bellsouth.net
Sent: Saturday, August 24, 2013 10:37 AM
Subject: Amendment 20

Mr. David Cupka

My name is Brian Bennett and I am a commercial fishermen in Key West FL. I was confused on how the Atlantic Council would prefer to raise the trip limit of King Mackerel to 3000lbs a day in the Gulf Group Southern Subzone [via Amendment 20 Section 2.1 alternative 3]. I started reading the minutes from the Advisory Panel meeting 4/24/12 and I was shocked at the way their recommendation arose. The Mackerel Advisory panel was totally influenced by fishermen at a LOBSTER meeting !!! [page 37 pdf].

Raising the trip limit to 3000 lbs will flood the market, drastically lower vessel prices and shorten the season so much that Keys boats would have to move to other areas to continue fishing. Please take a moment to click on this Amendment 20 link and look at the online comments to see how fishermen that were not at that lobster meeting feel.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AhC1wo3e6k8TdC1KUK9VNjA5aWVwRUtiazNYYkxqRUE#gid=0>

Thank you for your time

Brian Bennett

Subject: RE: Amendment 20

Date: Monday, August 26, 2013 5:48:53 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Ryan Rindone

To: BRIAN BENNETT, Myron Fischer, Martha Bademan

CC: Douglass Boyd, Charlene Ponce, Doug Gregory

Mr. Fischer, Ms. Bademan,

The comment below was received by me this afternoon with respect to CMP 20.

Best,
Ryan Rindone

From: BRIAN BENNETT [mailto:captshorthop@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, August 26, 2013 5:47 PM

To: Ryan Rindone

Subject: Amendment 20

Ryan

I attended the meeting in Key West and was outnumbered by members of the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermens Association. Even though many did not own a King Mackerel permit they spoke in favor of raising the limit. I listened to 4 hours of todays meeting online and there was not one mention of the 37 straight posts on the Amendment 20 online comment section. If the online comments are not acknowledged what is the point of all of those fishermen wasting their time.

Brian Bennett

Subject: Amendment 20

Date: Friday, August 23, 2013 8:22:08 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Randy Wamble

To: Gulf Council

My name is William R. (Randy) Wamble from Naples. My first commercial kingfish trip was in 1974 continuing through today. Hook and line fishing is my only income producing job. I am against changing the trip limit to 3000# in the Eastern Southern Sub- Zone. I am for keeping it at 1250# with no 500# reduction when 75% of the quota is reached. This trip limit was put in place to lengthen the season and potentially raise ex-vessel prices. It did both and to raise the trip limit would be a step backwards. It would shorten the season most likely to a January closure and no one can argue that would result in lower prices. After 15 plus years with the current limits, the fishermen still in this fishery are the ones who have tailored their businesses to be profitable under the current regulations. An increase to 3000# would also create a derby style fishery to no real benefit to anyone, even the people that think they want the increase. I have a 43ft boat, I'm no stranger to long distance runs, I have crew and I show a profit from this business. I have fished in the Western zone before and would have to go there again if our season here closes early because of a larger trip limit. I don't think the folks up there need anymore help filling that quota. There are no answers that are going to please everyone. Leave amendment 20 status quo. Forget tweaking a plan that everyone has made adjustments to. Leave it alone or go to an ITQ program.



8/13/2013

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

Dear Gulf Council Member,

Please let me take this time to give you input from The Recreational Fishing Alliance - Florida West Coast on Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20 Boundaries and Transit Provisions.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 20 Boundaries and Transit Provisions

Action 1 : Modify the Commercial Hook and Line Trip Limits for the Gulf Migratory Group King Mackerel

We Support :

Alternative 3 : Set the commercial hook and line trip limit at 3000 lbs with no reduction.

Option B : For the Eastern Zone Southern Subzone.

Action 2 : Change the Fishing Season for Gulf Group King Mackerel for the Eastern and Western Zone

We Support :

Alternative 1 : No Action - The commercial hook and line season opens for both Eastern and Western Zones on July 1.

Action 3 : Establish Transit Provisions

We Support :

Alternative 4 : Allow transit through areas closed to king mackerel fishing for vessels processing king mackerel that were legally harvested in the EEZ.

Action 4 : Establish Regional Annual Catch Limits for Atlantic Migratory Group King and Spanish Mackerel

We have no preferred alternative

Action 5 : Modify the Framework Procedure

We have no preferred alternative

Action 6 : Modify the Gulf and Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia Annual Catch Limits and Annual Catch Targets

We have no preferred alternative

Thank You for taking the time to look at our input

Capt Buddy Bradham
RFA- Florida West Coast
4000 24th N #1307
St Petersburg FL 33714
727-458-1192
MotherOceanCharters@msn.com

I write to express my opposition to the proposed king mackerel trip limit increase (3000 lbs) for the southern subzone (Collier and Monroe Counties).

This is not a fine tuning of a trip limit, it is the abandonment of trip limit management. I am not a fan of such management and if the Council wishes to pursue alternative measures to stabilize this fishery I am all for it. I am a member of the king mackerel LAPP, which has yet to meet. However, to take an existing set of management measures that have been in place for 15-20 years and alter them, thereby redistributing the catch, is not right. It should be a foregone conclusion that either alternative 2 or 3 (2500 and 3000 lbs respectively) will result in a shortened season. In Collier County the fish often do not show until late winter or early spring. Even at 1250 the season often closes before the fish arrive. Furthermore it is most desirable to fish during Lent. At either 2500 or 3000 lbs we will never catch spring fish off Naples.

What are the goals of trip limits and where has the 1250 lbs limit failed? When the Council implemented these limits it was to ' reduce the derby effects and lengthen the season until a more permanent solution could be put in place'. These are the Council's words (paraphrased) not mine. If 1250 lbs were too restrictive the quota would not be filled : it is consistently filled. If the limit were too restrictive for a class of boats or one area within the zone you'd see shifting of landings: this has not occurred. If the landing limit were not restrictive enough one would see no difference in closure dates compared to pre- trip limit seasons: there has been a lengthening of the season compared to the early-mid 1990's.

The Council needs to be mindful that at this point in the game most of the Gulf fisheries are in some way interrelated. Like a balloon: you squeeze one side and the other pops out. If the limits are increased the season will shorten. Those of us that fish for both grouper and kings are now tied to grouper production levels via

the IFQ program. Our qualifying grouper landings were determined by how long the kingfish season lasted which in turn was determined by the trip limit. Shorten the season at this point and we can't compensate which increased grouper effort. What should we do? Go to Louisiana and fish kings thereby further overcapitalizing an already overcapitalized fishery?

Lastly, has the Council considered the prudence of establishing a 3000 lbs (or 2500 lbs) trip limit in a zone adjacent to a 50 fish zone?

Tom Marvel

F/V Sea Marvel

Member Mackerel AP (we voted to retain the existing limits)

My name is Jack Robinson—100 percent of my earned income is through commercial fishing.

The 2012 Gulf king mackerel season was a 53 day opener, a very short season because too many boats showed up; rent-a-boat, rent-a-captain and cheap fish prices. There will be more boats next year. Destin, FL panhandle 2012 season was very short as well. The same scenario: a lot of boats, rent-a-boat, rent-a-captain; one big party. I know the Gulf Council is aware of this problem, and I hope the Council will consider a historical qualifying endorsement, or catch shares.

The historical fisherman will not last with shorter seasons and cheaper prices. The part-timers and job-fisherman will; they can go back to their jobs. I don't understand...Washington wants a reduction in fleet, but the marine fisheries make it so easy to qualify for these permits. There are way too many king mackerel permits for such a small tack.

Amendments 19 and 20 are not good; a September 1 opening would be a disaster, and that would put the Gulf, panhandle, Naples, Key West, Florida east coast, and North Carolina fishing at the same time. It would just be an absolute disaster. The price of fish would crash, and would never recover as we went into the fall season. This is very, very bad for the fisherman. We need to get our king mackerel committee together and solve these problems. I do not know who came up with amendments 19 and 20, but I DO know that they are not in our user group.

Our stocks are taking a beating because of the huge growth of our king mackerel fleet. There are over 1,400 king mackerel permits out there. Should I do the math? There should only be 100 permits to be allowed an averaged earned income with our tack.

Please help the historical fisherman and their families. Please consider all that I have written, as well as my 25 years of experience as a king mackerel fisherman.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jack Robinson

Intelligence and Integrity

Intelligence and integrity are qualities you won't find in Roy Crabtree and company (NMFS)!

This is what is wrong with America today. Today our Government agencies are run by people with the morals of the common thief.

I was raised better than that!

Integrity: moral soundness; honesty; uprightness; rectitude.

Rectitude: rightness of principle or practice; exact conformity to truth, or to the rules prescribed for moral conduct.

I might not be intelligent, but I did the 9th grade in 45 minutes. I didn't go to school the last half year of the 12th grade. My last six years of school I did in four and a half years. I'm not slow!

I'm a man of honor and integrity! I volunteered to serve my country. I did six years and ten months in the Navy. I was an electronic technician those years. That job I was paid to use my brain. I doubt Roy Crabtree and company could do that job or that they served in the military, they lack the intelligence and integrity and honor required.

There's an old saying: nobody knows how stupid you are until you open your mouth. Roy Crabtree and company put their stupidity on paper. Amendment 19 and 20 are criminally stupid and will only complicate the problems in my King Mackerel fishery. I call amendment 19 and 20 criminal intent!

Integrity: My father flew the fastest jet bomber America (and the world) had in the 1970's. During the cold war my dad was given possession of nuclear bombs on dozens of missions. Believe me when I tell you that the U.S.A. military does not give these missions to people with less than perfect integrity!

My mother's intelligence and integrity equals that of my Father's. Besides raising seven children she was the president of the Silver hair legislator's for the state of Florida for three years. Before that she was a substitute teacher, a candy striper at school, a little league coach, a cheerleader coach, sold real estate and much more.

Three of my siblings are Intelligent. All my siblings are people of integrity and high morals. Alas I'm the black sheep of the family.

Believe me when I say that no one in the National Marine Fisheries Service measures up to Kane standards! I was raised better than all of you!

I was taught that you are responsible for your actions. That if you break it, you fix it, or you pay for a new one. Roy Crabtree and company are totally irresponsible!

Roy Crabtree and company have destroyed my life with their incompetence. I used to fish King Mackerel twelve months a year. I've lost my three best months of fishing because these fools can't do simple math. In the past two years my loss totals \$100,000 to \$120,000.

I can do simple math. My calculations tell me there should be about 300 commercial King Mackerel permits in the U.S.A. There is not one person in the NMFS that can figure out how many commercial permits there should be with the small 8 million pound commercial quota.

This proves my point that there is not one person in the NMFS that possess intelligence and integrity! You cannot manage anything without doing the math!

We've had a mackerel committee for years. Why wasn't this committee used to create amendment 19 and 20?

Intelligence: 1. Act or state of knowing. 2. Capacity to know or understand; the intellect. 3. Information communicated; news; notice; advice. 4. Knowledge acquired; general information.

Amendment 19 and 20 were created behind closed doors. Without the knowledge that the problem in the King Mackerel Fishery is that there are over two hundred too many commercial permits in use. Intelligence what's intelligence? Read the previous paragraph sections 3 and 4!

I feel that amendment 19 and 20 is criminal intent. The NMFS intends to double or triple this commercial fleet with sport fishermen. They're throwing gas on a runaway fire.

Roy Crabtree and company have no integrity, just criminal intent to destroy our lives!

The National Marine Fisheries should be shut-down!

Roy Crabtree should resign. Roy Crabtree should do time. Roy Crabtree and company should be held responsible for their criminal incompetence.

We will see what Congress thinks of your shenanigans!

P.S. Roy Crabtree and company: may the fleas of a thousand camels infest your crotch!

Daniel C. Kane AKA Huri-Kane Dan 10-29-2012

Don't change the landing limits on the King Mackerel

I understand that the NMFS is thinking of changing the daily landing limits of King-mackerel in the Florida Keys. To increase the landing limit from 1,250 to 3,000lbs is not smart.

Last year the price for King mackerel in the Key's bottomed out at 80 cents a pound. At a 3,000lb limit this price will get down to 60 cents or less. Bait cost about a dollar a pound.

The reason the price of King Mackerel is so low in the Keys is the fish are not iced properly. The majority of these lobster-fishermen that King-fish down there won't ice their fish until they are done fishing. I've spent over ten years commercial fishing west of Key West. I was down there King-fishing three years ago, and again five years before that. They wouldn't take proper care of their fish in the 80's, in the 90's, nor the last couple times I was down there.

Don't change the dates on any of the zones or the landings will overlap. This will ruin the price of our fish.

Daniel C. Kane 10-30-2012

This is a bill for \$180,000

The incompetence of Roy Crabtree and company has cost me \$180,000 or better in these past few years!

They refuse to fix the problems that they created in my King Mackerel fishery!

I used to fish twelve months a year. Now I've lost my three best months of King-fishing because Roy Crabtree can't do simple math.

In five years they can't figure out how many King Mackerel permits there should be. How stupid can they be? I'd call it criminally stupid!

In the last two years I've lost my three best months of King-fishing. That cost me about \$110,000. The few years before that I'd lost \$70,000 or better by not being able to fish during lent.

With an eight million commercial quota there should be only 300 King Mackerel permits.

Today there are near 1500 commercial permits out there, a thousand of them are not being used. Roy Crabtree is doing everything he can to activate all these sleeping permits. Why would he do this when there are nearly 300 too many permits in use today? I call it criminal intent.

In lieu of the \$180,000 and the \$500,000 I'm going lose in the next nine years I'll accept 20,000 pounds of Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper IFQ's.

I was raised understanding that you are responsible for your actions. That if you break it you fix it. If you can't fix it you pay for it.

The NMFS should pay me for damages they've inflicted on me!

Your victim: Daniel C. Kane 10-30-2012

Subject: Mackerel # 20

Date: Friday, August 31, 2012 10:32 AM

From: Tom Marvel <marvelt@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: "tom marvel" <marvelt@yahoo.com>

To: John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>

Conversation: Mackerel # 20

Dear Members of the Gulf Council,

I strongly opposed the creation of a new subzone off Central Florida. Why is funding of proposed zone only from the Southern hook and line zone? What relationship does the Southern Zone have to the proposed zone? One would think the parent zone would be responsible for funding of a zone created entirely within its' borders. You would be shifting quota from vessels that have shown a dependence on these fish to vessels(zone) that has not demonstrated dependence. What is the need of this proposed zone? Central Florida, according to your table, has only been closed in two of the last seven years. The average landings over seven years is 40,500 lbs. Does this actually warrant the creation of a new subzone? The vast majority of king mackerel vessels in the Southwest Zone (Collier and Monroe) do not travel out of their zone to fish kings. Most of our alternative fisheries (grouper, stone crab and lobster) are under effort limitation programs: trap certificates for stone crab and lobster and ifqs for grouper/snapper. To a large degree our capitalization in these 'other' fisheries is a function of how much historical access we've had to king mackerel. If our king mackerel quota had been cut from 1999-2006 to create a new sub zone we would have spent more effort targeting, in my case, grouper. Hence my initial grouper allocation would have been larger. To alter our quota after we are more or less locked in to our alternative fisheries seems highly unfair.

Please do not increase the Southern subzone trips limits. I am certainly no fan of trip limit management but until a new approach (ifqs) are in place trip limits are all we have to prevent a mid January closure. Increasing the trip limit will create such a steep gradient between the east coast limits and the Keys that I am quite certain the effort shift will all but overwhelm us.

Thank you

Tom Marvel

Member Mackerel Advisory Panel

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
3/22/2012 16:16:46	matthew andrews	restless146464@yahoo.com	matthew andrews owner operator of the fv restless2 The council should consider that opening the king mackerel season in the fall would create a tremendous flood of fish on the market in a very short period of time . Due to the fact that the fish are more plentiful and somewhat closer to shore. Vessels that have not historically participated in this fishery Will start participating .This fishery is as it stands is already under a tremendous economical burden due to over participation allowing this fishery to open in the fall will create disastours consequences for the market.In short this is a really bad idea.The only true and fair soulution to this situation is a catch share progam tx capt matthew andrews	32578	Commercial Fisher
3/23/2012 8:57:53	Nicholas Patzig	pmsbigred1@yahoo.com	<p>Action 1. Yes the council should eliminate all the zones and establish a 500 lb trip limit in the gulf. if a boundary is necessary then it should stay where it is. gill nets should be eliminated. if all trip limits were the same then there would be less incentive for the east coast and keys boats to encroach in other waters. If those boats are allowed to travel then the fish that they catch could be taken from their home quota and not taken from the other boats home quota to further reduce the incentive to travel and take livelihood away from other boats.</p> <p>Action 2. no change in opening date.</p> <p>Action 3. no change make them sell their catch in the open zone. any change would only foster black marketing.</p> <p>Action 4 and 5. If zones must remain home zone must be declared at renewal and only 1 zone is allowed and what ever fish are caught by that vessel will be counted against that vessel home zone and not allowed to take quota away from other vessels and their home zone quotas.</p> <p>Action 6. 1 Gulf Quota And 1 atlantic quota and all trip limits at 500 lbs.</p>	Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548	Commercial Fisher
3/26/2012 10:07:21	samuel m baker	mikebaker15@yahoo.com	I oppose all new management options in regards to admendment twenty. In review of this ademndment the constaint them running through most of the options is effort reduction. Reduceing my rights and fishing options as to when and where I can produce King Mackerel as a vaild full time commercial fisherman. I due support a two for one permit plan and a poundage limit for latent permits. This method was used in the shark plan by HMS to qualify sharks permits and proved to be productive.	hobe sound fl. 33455	Commercial Fisher
4/9/2012 5:35:17	Mason Bowen	fpfirelb@aol.com	<p>I have never seen a proposed amendment so Biased in nature as this amendment. It pander's to some small groups participating in the fishery, and negatively impacts the much larger groups that support the King Mackeral Industry.</p> <p>When you are dealing with a species of fish as highly migratory as King Mackeral the participants themselves Must Have That Same Freedom. When there is no absolute certainty where these schools of fish will be located,(the fish move with water temperatures and food supply). It is then Absolutely Ridiculous to have to declare zones in Ignorance and would Negatively impact participants.</p> <p>Mason Bowen</p>	Sebastian,Fl 32958	Commercial Fisher

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
4/15/2012 19:51:41	dennis gillispie	dgledge@gmail.com	Dear amendment 20 i oppose all action with the exception of triplimit deviation. that could help lengthen are fishing season.definitely no home zones or any zones for that matter we shouldnt be caged in like a pet thats a complete joke! not a good idea to change opening dates this would be true disaster we dont need easier fishing this would only entice more participation in the gulf.Get rid of the stagnant permits already, and also the 2 or 3 for 1 kingsih permit plan needs to be engaged asap should have been done yesterday.No state by state quota system not needed..no action on ammendment 20 please ,thankyou.	fot pierce fl 34946	Commercial Fisher
5/31/2012 13:03:50	Mark Tryon	mdtryon@bellsouth.net	I fish out of Pensacola Pass in the Florida northern west coast subzone. Subsequent to the closure of the gulf west coast (AL to TX) zone NMFS has routinely failed to implement the step down from 1250 to 500 lbs in our zone. As such transient vessels have repeatedly wiped out our measly quota in short order each season. My reccommendation here is to reduce the trip limit in our subzone to be relativeto the small quota. Perhaps 500lbs would be logical. In the interim it is imperative that NMFS does their job and implements the step down in a conservative manner. My suggestion would be to have the step down coincide with the closure of the Al-TX zone. Finally I would be in favor of a single zone declaration to protect local interests.	gulf breeze,fl. 32563	Commercial Fisher
6/29/2012 5:29:50	William R. Wamble	fish4living@comcast.net	Action 1. Leave the subzones in place. Leave the boundry lines in place. A 1500 lb. trip limit would help offset trip exspenses in the Southern subzone, however any major increase in the trip limit would shorten the season and lower ex-vessel prices. The kingfish market is poor at best when everyone is catching fish at the same time and larger trip limits would likly cause market gluts and possible shut downs from buyers refusing to take more fish. Fishermen at times stop fishing because prices go below 1.00 per pound. We already have situations like this occuring each year. A reduction at the end to 500 lbs. is unnecessary and an unfair economic burden on fishermen who have proved their dependance on this fishery. If the subzones are eliminated, put the quota back where it came from. ACTION 2. Leave the opening date as it is. ACTION 3. Allow the transportation of legally caught fish through closed areas. This is another unnecessary economic burden on fishermen to have to travel long distances to sell their catch in open zones. ACTION 4. and 5. Locking fishermen into zones is another unnecessary economic burden on fishermen. The historical king fisherman, who has shown his dependence on this fishery, needs to be allowed to follow the fish if he so chooses. ACTION 6. How can any one state catch the entire Annual Catch Limit? With zones in place that have individual quotas? WHEN ARE WE GOING TO QUIT MICRO MANAGING THIS FISHERY? WHEN ARE WE GOING TO QUIT SECOND GUESSING OUR CURRENT REGULATIONS EVERY TIME SOMEONE WITH A NEWLEY PURCHASED PERMIT STARTS COMPLAINING ABOUT THE RULES? ITQ, ITQ, ITQ. ITQ, ITQ.....	Naples, FL. 34104	Commercial Fisher

Timestamp	Enter your full name	email address	Comments	City, State, Zip Code	Check all that apply
8/31/2012 7:23:46	Tom Marvel	marvelt@yahoo.com	<p>I strongly opposed the creation of new subzone off Central Florida. Why is funding of proposed zone only from the Southern hook and line zone? What relationship does the Southern Zone have to the proposed zone? One would think the parent zone would be responsible for funding of a zone created entirely within its' borders. You would be shifting quota from vessels that have shown a dependence on these fish to vessels(zone) that has not demonstrated dependence. What is the need of this proposed zone? Central Florida, according to your table, has only been closed in two of the last seven years. The average landings over seven years is 40.500 lbs. Does this actually warrant the creation of a new subzone? The vast majority of king mackerel vessels in the Southwest Zone (Collier and Monroe) do not travel out of their zone to fish kings. Most of our alternative fisheries (grouper, stone crab and lobster) are under effort limitation programs: trap certificates for stone crab and lobster and ifqs for grouper/snapper. To a large degree our capitalization in these 'other' fisheries is a function of how much historical access we've had to king mackerel. If our king mackerel quota had been cut from 1999-2006 to create a new sub zone we would have spent more effort targeting, in my case, grouper. Hence my initial grouper allocation would have been larger. To alter our quota after we are more or less locked in to our alternative fisheries seems highly unfair.</p> <p>Do not even think of increasing the Southwest subzone trip limits. We would see so much new effort our season would be closed by February.</p>	Naples	<p>Charter/Headboat For-Hire, Commercial Fisher</p>