

From: [Chuck Turner](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: "Headboat IFQ"
Date: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 1:15:53 PM

Greetings,

Please **do not grant** an Exempted Fishing Permit for a Pilot Study by Gulf of Mexico Headboats Evaluating an Allocation-Based Management System.

1. This potential disruption in the recreational fishery interferes with interstate commerce because out of state fisherman will be incentivized to travel to the state where they can "buy" snapper and other reef fish. This is an overreach of NOAA's congressional authorization.

2. If an exemption is granted, why not grant recreational fishermen who own their own vessels a recreational quota equal to the maximum number of authorized personnel on board multiplied by the daily fish limit & the maximum # of days the season is open? This is neither fair nor equitable.

3. Headboats will catch their shares immediately in order to maximize profits. Thereafter, discard mortality will certainly increase because of vessel range, fishing gear, and species limitations.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Turner

From: [Brad Grant](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 2:31:52 PM

This should serve as record of my vehement opposition to any plan to issue an exemption fishing permit to GOM headboats for a pilot study. I personally do not believe that ARS nor gag grouper are being overfished in the Crystal River area by recreational fishermen. However, if you believe your own data, I cannot understand how you can seriously propose to allow any group to be exempt from the rules you have set forth. We should all be treated equally when it comes to our shared natural resources; to allow one group to be exempt just because they have a more effective lobbying group, or due to another unrealized as of yet motive, is unfair and should not be allowed.

I urge you not to approve any exemption fishing permits for headboats in the GOM for a pilot study.

Sincerely,

Brad Grant

From: [Mike Lyles](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 3:38:38 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed exempted fishing permit in the Gulf of Mexico for headboats. As a long time recreational fisherman, I am opposed to any in-sector allocation of the limited snapper quota. The moment we begin to separate the recreational sector in quotas, we will open the door for further sector separation, to the point of allowing individual allocations, which is unconstitutional. No entity is entitled to more or less of the snapper fishery than another, regardless of the supposed economic impact. As Americans, we are all entitled to a fair chance at the public resource that makes up this fishery.

The proposal makes the statement " By limiting the amount of fish available to the Cooperative to its members' recent catch levels, this will ensure that season lengths and regulatory restrictions for private recreational and charter for-hire vessels are not affected by this EFP. In other words, the red snapper and gag grouper season lengths for the general recreational sector would be the same duration regardless of whether or not this EFP was

effective." This is not a true statement. For this proposal to work, a certain amount of the recreational sector allocation will have to be set aside for these headboats. This allocation will have to reduce the remaining recreational quota and will require a reduction in season length for the remainder of fishermen. It also assumes these headboats are entitled to a certain amount of the quota, based on their past catches. This is also not a true statement. No entity, individual or group, is entitled to a portion of the catch.

I respectfully request that you deny this application. Regardless of the statements this proposal makes regarding collection of data, it is simply a veiled attempt to gain access to the fishery by taking it away from other Americans. This is neither fair, nor within the limits of the Gulf Council or the NOAA and it will not improve the management of the fishery for all segments and users.

Mike Lyles

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], AL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

From: [Capt. Andy Vaughn](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: comment on above.
Date: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 7:35:50 PM

I feel this program should not be implemented.

First and foremost, as in all current charter for hire fishing, there are only a limited number of people who will come go fishing.

If they find that one boat has an advantage over another, they will choose the one which gives them that opportunity, while the rest of the fleet suffers.

Also the owners of those vessels, are not as limited by their fishing, and will go on price alone regardless.

As they do now year-round while we sit idle in the fall,winter,spring months.

I would condone nothing where all CFH boats are not equal.

Red Snapper is the bane in this particular part of the gulf, if you wish to solve this problem, fix the issue with the uncountable ones thrown back, that do not live. It is becoming impossible to fish without encountering them.

For once use some common sense, and address the real problems with the fishery.

most graciously yours.

--

Capt Andy Vaughn

██████████ "██████████" ██████████
██████████
██████████ Florida ██████████
██████████

From: [REDACTED]
To: charlene.porca@noaa.gov
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:44:19 PM

The Gulf Council appears determined to provide protection to the headboat/charter-for-hire boats, in this case a select number of headboats. First we respond to a charter-for-hire Days-at-Sea proposal and now this. Both should have been dead since neither addresses the basic problem: an allocation that no longer reflects the reality of the fishery in commercial and recreational allocation.

The problem is that the IFQ total (based on previous years catch that is inflated since headboats fish daily during the limited season) must come from the recreational allocation and will negatively impact the very sub-sector (private recreational anglers) who do not enjoy such advantage (we work) and are increasing in importance judged by any statistic that is consulted. This program can be framed in academic research terms forever but is a simple economic study that can be answered without this study - if given flexibility, headboats (and charter-for-hire boats) will make more money - and all the "hail-in" and "hail-outs" with sophisticated IT applications are not needed to answer that question.

Let the headboats BUY quota from the commercials since this is a commercial study - fish caught on boats by paying customers just like they would do if they went to a seafood shoppe. Headboats should give up their chance of being recreational and the Gulf Council should recognize the growth of the private recreational sub-sector and respond accordingly.

F. J. Eicke
[REDACTED] MS

In a message dated 4/3/2013 12:56:02 P.M. Central Daylight Time, charlene.porca@gulfcouncil.org writes:

header

April 3, 2013

Below is a recent Southeast Fishery Bulletin soliciting comments on an Exempted Fishing Permit for a Pilot Study by Gulf of Mexico Headboats:

FB13-030
[Steve Branstetter](#)
727-824-5305
April 2, 2013

NOAA Seeks Comments on an Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit for a Pilot Study by Gulf of Mexico Headboats Evaluating an Allocation-Based Management System

NOAA Fisheries is accepting comments on an application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from the Gulf Headboat Cooperative (Cooperative). The Cooperative proposes to evaluate the efficiency of an allocation-based management system, using a limited number of headboats in a 2-year pilot study.

This study, to be conducted in the Gulf of Mexico, is intended to assess whether such a system can better achieve conservation goals established in the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico; evaluate the effectiveness of a more timely electronic data reporting system; and evaluate the potential social and economic benefits of an alternative management strategy for the headboat segment of the recreational fishing sector within the Gulf reef fish fishery.

Dates:

Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., eastern time, on **May 2, 2013**.

Addresses:

You may submit comments on the application, identified by RIN 0648-XC528, by any of the following methods:

* **E-mail:** 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov. Include in the subject line of the e-mail the following document identifier: "Headboat IFQ".

* **Mail:** Steve Branstetter, NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

This bulletin only provides an overview of the EFP application. Interested parties are encouraged to review the entire application at [Headboat EFP](#).

For additional information, Contact Steve Branstetter, 727-824-5305; e-mail: Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov.

Program Concept

The Cooperative is requesting an EFP authorizing their members to harvest a specific amount of red snapper and gag anytime during the 2014 and 2015 fishing years. Their allocation would be based on the Cooperative participants' 2011 aggregate landings of red snapper and gag as percentage of the total landings in that year for both species. That percentage would then be applied to the 2014 and 2015 red snapper recreational quota and gag recreational allowable catch to determine the amount of fish authorized for harvest under the permit. The Cooperative would be responsible for distributing the allotted fish to the participants, and for reporting their landings electronically to NOAA Fisheries.

All vessels in the program would be required to purchase, install, activate, and maintain a Vessel Monitoring System. A participating captain would "hail out" as the vessel leaves the dock, and "hail in" at least one hour prior to landing, alerting law enforcement and port agents to his/her return. Landings would be reported at the end of the trip using a software application (*iSnapper*) developed by Texas A&M University's Harte Research Institute, and each fisherman would be provided with a written record of their catch.

Academic researchers, in collaboration with the Cooperative, would conduct a socio-economic study of the anticipated effects of the change in headboat cooperative management using currently available data sources. Simultaneously, the academic researchers and the Cooperative would develop additional survey instruments to gather economic data for an analysis of the effects of the pilot project on Cooperative vessels after its first and second years. Data collection would emphasize impacts of the pilot project.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council reviewed the Cooperative's initial application at its April 2012 meeting, and recommended that NOAA Fisheries approve the application. NOAA Fisheries finds this application does warrant further consideration, and is seeking public comment on the application. A final decision on issuance of the EFP will depend on NOAA Fisheries' review of public comments received, the Council's recommendation, consultations with the affected states, and the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as a determination that it is consistent with all applicable laws.

This announcement is forwarded as a courtesy of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

About Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council prepares fishery management plans, which are designed to manage fishery resources within the 200-mile limit of the Gulf of Mexico.



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Charlene Porca
Public Information Officer
858-633-1644 ext. 229

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From: [REDACTED]
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Thursday, April 04, 2013 8:35:15 PM

I am opposed to the catch shares pilot program. As a recreational fisherman, I do not want to give a portion of my quota to a select few.

--

Jason Whitaker

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]-[REDACTED]-[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please Note - if this email contains a URL, you will have to copy/paste it into your browser. DKO blocks URLs so you will not be able to click the URL.

From: [Buddy Bradham](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Date: Thursday, April 04, 2013 9:16:48 PM

I would like to submit this letter in my disapproval of granting an EFP to this select group of headboats. This opportunity was not offered to all the permitted headboats in the gulf of mexico so it is a very unfair plan. Before any new programs should be started the data collection on private boats need to be improved

Thank you

Capt Buddy Bradham

██████████ # ██████████
██████████ FI ██████████

From: [Pettit, Steven](#)
To: ["0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov"](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 07, 2013 10:39:13 AM

I am against the Charterboat Catch Share Exempted Fishing permit. I feel it is the beginning of the end to public access to the GOM Red Snapper Fishery. We should not be required to hire someone to take us out to have access to a public resource.

On a side note: Why are you so bent on getting recreational fisherman off the water? What have we done to harm you? The resource is robust and abundant and everyone that has any experience in the GOM can see it. Your own data on recreational effort has been proven flawed time and time again. I don't know how anyone can sleep at night knowing they purposefully put thousands of people out of business while at the same time taking away a great hobby and sport for many of your fellow Americans.

Thank you,

Steven Pettit
Concerned Recreational Fisherman

This message (including any attachments) is confidential and intended for a specific individual and purpose. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message.

From: [Aces Full](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2013 12:03:33 PM

I am a recreational angler from San Antonio, Texas. I am opposed to the Headboat IFQ exempted fishing permit. It has already been established that the vast majority of recreational anglers are opposed to catch shares in the recreational fishery and this is nothin more than a way to get catch shares started in the recreational sector.

Congress mandated year ago to fix MRFSS. MRIP is supposed to do that years ago, but the required corrections have still not been fully implemented. The vast majority of recreational anglers do not believe the catch and effort estimates used by NMFS. We also do not have any faith in the estimate of the current biomass of the red snapper fishery. The fish are in an environment that is not even hardly fully understood by scientists. The relationships and effects of other fisheries and predators are not being accounted for. The loss and gain of habitat is not being accounted for. The allocation given to the headboats would be based on inaccurate and faulty data.

We do not need catch shares to manage the recreational fishery, not do we need it in the fishery at all. It is a tool simply to gift a resource owned by all to just a few in order for them to profit. It has and will continue to decimate local communities far greater than without.

Thanks,

Ray Weldon

From: [REDACTED]
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 10:04:38 AM

First Name: Capt Buddy
Last Name: Bradham
Street Address: [REDACTED] # [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]: [REDACTED]
State: Florida
Zip Code: [REDACTED]
Email Address: [REDACTED]
: Dear NOAA:

I not support the Gulf Headboat Cooperative's application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP). Recreational fishing regulations for red snapper and gag grouper are working in the Gulf of Mexico. This will be a very unfair permit if issued. Not all headboats were invited to join this group. How can A few headboats in the northern gulf produce a sample thst shows what is going on over the entire Gulf.

I urge the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration not to approve this EFP.
THANK YOU

Capt Buddy Bradham

From: [REDACTED]
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 10:10:44 AM

First Name: Jason
Last Name: Descant
Street Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED]
State: Florida
Zip Code: [REDACTED]
Email Address: [REDACTED]
: Dear NOAA:

I am against the Gulf Headboat Cooperative's application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP). Recreational fishing regulations for red snapper and gag grouper aren't working in the Gulf of Mexico. All recreational Fishermen need new options and more flexibility. A pilot program to test whether there is a better way to conserve fish while increasing access for fishermen should only be considered if it includes all recreational fisherman.

I urge the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to quickly disapprove this EFP.

From: [REDACTED]
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 10:33:35 AM

First Name: Robert
Last Name: Bryant
Street Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED]
State: Florida
Zip Code: [REDACTED]
Email Address: [REDACTED]
: Dear NOAA:

I DO NOT support the Gulf Headboat Cooperative's application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP). Recreational fishing regulations for red snapper and gag grouper aren't working in the Gulf of Mexico. It is not right to treat one class of recreational angler different from the rest and is a CLEAR VIOLATION of the MSA and the National Standard that state; Regualtions must be equitable to ALL. For-hire captains are merely the conduit (basically the bus driver) for recreational fishing activity and they do not deserve any special consideration that is not available to any other recreational fisherman. The EFP will unfairly treat one group over another and as such should be denied

I urge the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to Deny this EFP and focus on FIXING THE DATA.

From: [REDACTED]
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 12:40:08 PM

First Name: Captain Henry
Last Name: Hauch
Street Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED]
State: Florida
Zip Code: [REDACTED]
Email Address: [REDACTED]
: Dear NOAA:

As a Charter Captain in the South Atlantic, and a Recreational Angler in both the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, I urge NOAA to Reject this and ANY such attempt for individuals of other groups to carve out for themselves and profit a portion of the Recreational Quota of Federally managed fish. The attempt for a small well funded group, subsidized by the Environmental Defense Fund to Separate and in effect Segregate the Recreational Fishing Sector is simply unthinkable, and defies the very spirit and intent of the MS and NS.

Until Realistic and Reliable Recreational Data as required by law for the recreational Sector in 2009 is corrected, no management schemes should even be considered. Particularity with a seeming stalling of the NMFS in releasing the latest ARS stock assesment does this and any other such schemes need tabled, including the CFH DAS scheme.

This EFP request needs little imagination as to the real intent, namely profit for a few at the expense of the entire recreational sector. This idea is not possible without sector separation, and that idea was flatly rejected by some 97% of respondents in the Public comments received by the Gulf Council. Additionally the very idea of this 'Headboat IFQ' Pilot goes against not only well voiced public statements, but the Congress also. Nothing that could not be modeled behind a desk would be created....except the profit of a few while the rest of the recreational community suffers the ever decreasing seasons, while stocks continue to explode. As we know its the poor science that the NMFS continues to use that is creating the problems we ALL face, so rather than giving a few special access and profit, how about fixing the root cause of the problems as ordered by the courts?

I urge the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to quickly Reject this EFP as a primarily for economic consideration FMP request.
No to any Sector Separation Scheme or dividing of the quota that belong to ALL recreational Anglers.
No to any scheme that does not address the issues impacting ALL recreational anglers.

From: [Kelle Falterman](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:22:32 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a lifelong resident and fisherwoman in the state of Louisiana, I ask that you oppose the movement to give control of the red snapper population to a select group. Please consider the ramifications of such a movement and vote against this proposition. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kelle Falterman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA [REDACTED]

From: [Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Summerour](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:22:37 PM

Dear The Comments,

Surely there can be no justification for taking away the rights of many, so just a select few may profit. Please reject this pilot program.

Sincerely,

Douglas Summerour

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [John O'Hanlon, sr.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:22:42 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please stop the IFQ to a few. The resource should be open to all to be a fair and equitable system. Give just a few is unfair to the total population.

Sincerely,

John O'Hanlon

██████████

██████████, FL ██████████

From: [doug olander](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:30:19 PM

Dear The Comments,

Catch shares should not be a part of the recreational sector. I urge NOAA Fisheries to reject consideration of a pilot program that would allow a select group of headboats to take ownership of a recreational red snapper quota.

Sincerely,

doug olander

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [William Fulton](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:30:46 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please stop the monopoly on red snapper catch by only a few. Make it more accessible to the rest of the public fishing population.

Sincerely,

William Fulton

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [William Lanford II](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:38:48 PM

Dear The Comments,

While the states, other headboat businesses, and hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers deal with a 27-day red snapper season, this pilot program proposes to take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of about 20 boats to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want.

Please reject share grabs. The snapper belong to all of us or none of us, but not to just a few.

Sincerely,

William Lanford II

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Carter Drane](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:38:52 PM

Dear The Comments,

i urge you to reject the proposal on catch shares as the states are better equipped to manage the resources and make the best decisions

Sincerely,

Carter Drane

██████████ & ██████████
██████████, AL ██████████

From: [Gary Gautreaux, Sr.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:39:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am totally against the use of catch shares in the gulf.
The red snapper should be overseen by the states.
My own experience has shown me that snapper populations are so huge you cannot get past them to catch other fish.

Sincerely,

Gary Gautreaux Sr.

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Kenneth Smith](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:39:10 PM

Dear The Comments,

please reject policies that distribute red snapper resources to the few and destroy access for the many

Sincerely,

Kenneth Smith

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Paul Amazeen, Ph.D.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:39:13 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute fish resources to a few specific interested parties while limiting access to these resources for all others.

Sincerely,

Paul G Amazeen

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [Ken Gaines](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:39:29 PM

Dear The Comments,

This GIFT of a fishery to businesses is yet another example of crony capitalism under Obama's reign of terror and taxes. This is nothing short of criminal and it should be stopped! The red snapper fishery is NOT government property to be given and gifted as NMFS sees fit. It belongs to all of us.

Sincerely,

Ken Gaines

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Butch Long](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:39:37 PM

Dear The Comments,

Stop this now! It's wrong to take a public resource and give it to a small group of head boats for commercial or what ever they want to do with. One headboat can take more fish than 20 recreational boats We obey the snapper rules and regulations and only take up to our limits.

The recational fishermen puts ten times more money into the economy than the whole commercial sector. Stop this now!!!!

N.L. "Butch" Long
[REDACTED], Texas

Sincerely,

Butch Long
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX [REDACTED]

From: [Danny Seitzler](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:39:38 PM

Dear The Comments,

In regards to the pilot program on Red Snapper ...Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many always.

Sincerely,

Danny Seitzler

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Gene Owens](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:40:11 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

THANK YOU.

Sincerely,

Gene Owens

██████████
██████████, MS ██████████

From: [Al Castille](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:40:30 PM

Dear The Comments,

I humbly ask the federal government to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for us recreational fishermen. I am speaking of the red snapper season and limits.

I am a Louisiana resident and enjoy fishing in the gulf of Mexico. The snapper are plentiful in the gulf coast and the few fish we catch will not even make a dent in the fish population. Besides, due to travel time, fuel and other expenses involved with snapper fishing, we are not able to go out as often as we once did.

I ask that you please reconsider this issue and support us local fishermen.

Sincerely,

Al Castille

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Baron Graham, A](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:40:35 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any policies that distribute resources to headboat businesses !

Sincerely,

Baron A Graham Sr

██████████
██████████, MS ██████████

From: [Kevin Blonkvist, sr.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:41:03 PM

Dear The Comments,

I humbly ask the federal government and their agency's to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy the access for the many in relationship to the Catch Shares program concerning Red Fish.

thank you for your consideration

Kevin M. Blonkvist

Sincerely,

Kevin Blonkvist, sr.

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [William Cable](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:41:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am opposed to providing a portion of the recreational fisherman's share of the allowed snapper catch during a proposed 27 day federal season to use as their own at their leisure.

I appreciate regulators looking for alternatives, but to reduce the recreational fishing quota for an experiment that favors business interest is not in the recreational fisherman's best interest.

If I am wrong, I am willing to listen should someone wish to respond to me.

Sincerely,

William Cable

██████████
██████████, AL ██████████

From: [Russell Lange](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:41:15 PM

Dear The Comments,

I do not agree with giving head boats the anglers quota. please do not punish the recreational fisherman because you cannot work out these problems or issues with the state.

Sincerely,

Russell Lange

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Danny Phillips](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:41:19 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please stop letting select interests destroy recreational fishing. It hurts everyone in the long run!!!!

Sincerely,

Danny Phillips

██████████

██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Stephen Heymann](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:41:23 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not restrict Snapper fishing to a few group of select boats to use as they please. This makes no sense whatsoever.

Sincerely,

Stephen Heymann

████████████████████

██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Kent Malinowski, Kent](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:41:31 PM

Dear The Comments,

This idea is plain crazy. It's akin to closing Yellowstone to visitors by car and opening the park to your buses only.

Sincerely,

Kent Malinowski Kent

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [Drew Fourier](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:52:49 PM

Dear The Comments,

REJECT ALL POLICIES THAT DISTRIBUTE RESOURCES TO THE FEW AND DESTROY ACCESS FOR THE MANY

Sincerely,

Drew Fourier

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Curtis Cline](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:52:56 PM

Dear The Comments,

Everybody gets up and puts their pants on one leg at a time. Why should a few individuals get priviledges the rest of us cannot enjoy.

Put the management in the States hands.

Sincerely,

Curtis Cline

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Charles Mann](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:53:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

Councilmembers, please be advised that I am a lifelong Florida recreational angler. I have read the notice of the application for an EFP for a Pilot Study by Gulf Of Mexico Headboats. For various reasons, not the least of which is the real and perceived unfairness of continuing to provide specific users a share of the resource during times and under conditions that don't apply to other users and stakeholders.

From my perspective, allowing several individuals to "test" a new management program, part of which is to exempt them from existing regulations, is bad precedent. Further, many stakeholders have provided ideas and plans to improve data and implement more fairness, none of which require the granting of special privileges. There is simply no need to approve this application.

Further, under the auspice of a broader comment, any effort to further separate sectors or re-evaluate sectors should not automatically take allocations from the recreational sector, but should rather re-evaluate the entire fishery from scratch to determine what share each recognized user group should be allocated (ie. recreational, commercial and for hire).

Sincerely,

Charles Mann

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [James Dismukes, P.E.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:53:17 PM

Dear The Comments,

I urge you to prevent any part of the recreational quota of red snapper being allocated to head boat operators. I further support turning over the management of the red snapper to the individual states. One can look at the success of Texas in bringing back the red drum population to see that local enforcement is effective.

Sincerely,

James Dismukes P.E.

████████████████████

██████, TX ██████

From: [Benjamin Graham](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:53:20 PM

Dear The Comments,

Hello,

First I want to thank you for taking the time to serve on the Gulf Council and for taking the time to read this comment. I am a life long offshore fisherman and son of a father and grandfather that both owned shrimp boats at one time. I have been extremely disappointed in the poor management of the red snapper fishery over the last few years and specifically in the way that the recreational sector has been treated. I am staunchly against this proposed headboat IFQ" and any form of sector separation in the recreational sector and feel that this is an attempt to gift a public resource to a select few individuals. I have been to at least 10 different council meetings over the years and I cannot understand why this misguided, unfair idea keeps getting brought. Not only is it unfair, but it will reduce the economic impact of the recreational fishing industry. The best way to better manage this fishery to get better data!

Please oppose this headboat IFQ program and any future forms of sector separation. Feel free to call or email me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Graham

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Corry Landry](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:54:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

This is something I along with fellow recreational anglers do not want to see. Please reject these policies that would allow only a select few access and many denied access to this public resource.

Sincerely,

Corry Landry

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Richard Barnett](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:54:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. In particular the Headboat IFO pilot program should be rejected along with any plans to force catch shares into the recreational fisheries sector.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Barnett

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Mark Dorsett](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat quotas
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:54:22 PM

Dear The Comments,

I write in opposition to this "catch share" scheme and urge you on behalf of recreational anglers throughout the Gulf Coast region to not allow our public resources to be handed over to this select few.

Sincerely,

Mark Dorsett

████████████████████
████████, TX ██████████

From: [Tommy Duckert](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:54:30 PM

Dear The Comments,

.Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Tommy Duckert

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Alvin Berger](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:55:13 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject this proposal as it gives to a few, instead of the public. This resource belongs to the public, not a few commercial entities. Col Alvin C Berger USA Ret

PS; If you are placing it somewhere, give it the states and let them administrate the program.

Sincerely,

Alvin Berger

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Nathan Hunter](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 1:55:22 PM

Dear The Comments,

I very strongly disagree with the Federal Government giving part of the recreational anglers quota of Red Snapper to a select group of commercial fisherman to do what they please when they please.

Please reject all policies associated with the associated pilot program.

Sincerely,

Nathan Hunter

██████████

██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Robert H. McCollum](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:00:39 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any and all policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many!!

Sincerely,

Robert H. McCollum

██████████ # ██████████

██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Craig Petersen](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:00:56 PM

Dear The Comments,

UNFAIR, ILLEGAL, TO ALL RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN

Sincerely,

Craig Petersen

████████████████████

██████, LA ██████

From: [Brenda Bass](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:01:02 PM

Dear The Comments,

I want you to reject the policies that allow only select boats to fish for snapper and allow regular fisherman to fish the ENTIRE SNAPPER SEASON!!!

Sincerely,

Brenda C Hughes-Bass

████████████████████

██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Scott Frye](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:01:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am a 60 year native of Florida, have been offshore fishing for 49 years. In recent years, I have observed more Red Snapper in the local waters offshore [REDACTED], more than I have ever witnessed in my entire 49 years of offshore fishing.

I ask and beg the Council to reject policies that would allow harvesting of any fish, by a select few which destroys the access of these resources by the many.

I was so excited when the nets were banned and I am a conservationist at heart, but our fisheries management need to based on realistic information and the rules set forth need to apply to everyone, but alos be open to everyone.

Sincerely,

Scott Frye

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL [REDACTED]

From: [Johnny Rispone](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:01:18 PM

Dear The Comments,

please reject this policies .

Sincerely,

Johnny Rispone

████████████████████

████████████████████, LA ██████████

From: [Judy Axelrod](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:01:39 PM

Dear The Comments,

The fishery belongs to the people. Commercial head boat interests should not be allocated definitive share of this resource. ALSO each state should have the say in it's marine resources because they understand the implications of decline and increase, not the Federal Government.

Sincerely,

Judy Axelrod

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [PALMER LONG](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:01:57 PM

Dear The Comments,

Would you please stop taking recreational fish away from us. we own the right to them, we are the public which pays for all of the work on the subject including your salaries. thanks

Sincerely,

PALMER LONG

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [Claudia Briell](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:02:54 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed pilot program that gives a select group of headboats ownership of the recreational red snapper quota. Thousands of fishermen/women are limited to a 27 day snapper season. This practice takes a portion of the quota and distributes it to a small group to take whenever they want it and however they want it. The government should not distribute limited resources to a select few while destroying access for the many.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Claudia Briell

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Richard McDavid](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:03:03 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. Please watch this video and explain why this is happening.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYFKLkC7tpE>

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard McDavid

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [Mike Mixon, Jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:03:14 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please no more ifq
It's has done nothing but take my living away. I still get by barely.
Commercial fisherman Reef permit and charter boat permit.

Preston mixon

Sincerely,

Mike Mixon Jr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX [REDACTED]

From: [Stuart Napier](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:03:36 PM

Dear The Comments,

Attention Federal Government: I request that you reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many recreational anglers.

Sincerely,

Stuart Napier

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Charles Brackett](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:10:54 PM

Dear The Comments,

I respectfully ask that you please reject any policy, in this case pertaining to red snapper but really for any non-endangered natural resource, which will decrease opportunities for sportsmen and women. Such recreational enthusiasts serve in an unofficial capacity as extremely crucial stewards of natural resources of this type and to privatize special interests would be a mistake. It's often looked over, but the easiest way to implement some sort of regulation is to make it appealing to the nature of those who it affects. Private business entities have a vested interest in exploiting fisheries because it provides them with financial incentives. Recreational fishermen conversely have a vested interest in ensuring the existence of a healthy population of what species they so desire to catch again and again. For me it's really that simple and I don't believe that privatization of a natural resource provides any benefit whatsoever when not scientifically proven necessary, as many other would likely agree. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Charles Brackett

Sincerely,

Charles Brackett

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [David Talbott](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:11:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. Such as catch shares for a limited number of selected headboats during the red snapper season in Texas and other States.

Sincerely,

David Talbott

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [James L. Fortson, Jr.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:11:15 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please oppose any program which would limit public access to recreational fisheries and quotas, specifically, please reject any policy which would distribute a portion of the recreational red snapper quota to a chosen few. Also, please support state management of red snapper quotas. Thank you,

James L. Fortson, Jr.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

James L. Fortson Jr.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA [REDACTED]

From: [Jordan Trahan](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:11:20 PM

Dear The Comments,

Vote no on headboat business

Sincerely,

Jordan Trahan

████████████████████

██████, LA ██████

From: [David Early](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:11:23 PM

Dear The Comments,

To whom it may concern,

Please reject any policy that would attempt to distribute resources to a few. The true conservation effort at hand is to stop the removal of out of service drilling rigs and structures. The removal is killing tens of thousand red snapper among other species. Then not only is the death of the fish but the removal of the habitat. There are safe ways to cap and decommission these things and it doesn't require the total removal of structure and habitat that has taken many years to build.

Sincerely,

David Early

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Darin Mull](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:11:33 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many

Sincerely,

Darin Mull

████████████████████

██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Jim Hollomon](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:11:40 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please remember the millions of recreational fishermen and the revenue they produce. Catch shares for a selected few is bad business. NMFS has restricted Red Snapper fishing to 27 days for recreational fishermen, don't give those fish away to a small group of head boats.

Sincerely,

Jim Hollomon

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [Eric McLendon](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:12:01 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a recreational fisherman, I think that this is unfair that I can't fish for red snapper and that you think by having a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own, it will make it better, I don't see that helping me get food on my table.

Sincerely,

Eric McLendon

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [Chris Bryant](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:12:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

The poorly counted , as far as scientific methodology, red snapper population in the Gulf of Mexico continues to thrive and expand, however the idea of "assigning" the catch of these fish to specific parties is absurd. As far as positive economic impact to local and State economies, individual recreational anglers are far and away the most significant component to the recreational fishery. These are the people that keep boat dealerships, tackle stores, marine supply stores, and gas stations in business, and buy fishing licenses. The individual recreational angler cannot be slighted any further by NMFS regulation.

Sincerely,

Chris Bryant

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [Richard O'Donovan](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:12:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

These latest Snapper proposals have no basis in science. Snapper is now proliferating to a huge extent and wiping out Croaker populations. On no account should this natural resource be put to the selective use of inlay a few.

Sincerely,

Richard O'Donovan

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Luke Elliott](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:12:11 PM

Dear The Comments,

We The People strongly entreat you to share our recreational fish catch democratically. I want my grandson to be able to catch Red Snapper in yhe Gulf.
Thank you

Sincerely,

Luke Elliott

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Bradd Barker](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:12:24 PM

Dear The Comments,

As past President of the Sportfishermen of Broward and recreational fishing club founded in 1974 we have always been supportive of conservation measure.

This is as poor a policy to sequester a portion of the red snapper catch to one entity. This screams of insider dealing and further outside investigation should be warranted for such intentions.

Sincerely,

Bradd Barker

██████████

██████████, FL ██████████

From: [John Cappadonna](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:12:31 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any proposals that distribute resources to the few and destroy access to many recreational fishermen.

Sincerely,

John Cappadonna

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Thomas Winkley](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:12:47 PM

Dear The Comments,

I request that you NOT move forward with the referenced. Such measures are not in the best interest of the fishery or the public.

Sincerely,

Thomas Winkley

████████████████████
████████, TX ██████████

From: [Matthew Suggs](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:12:49 PM

Dear The Comments,

I think it would be much more appropriate for the National Marine Fisheries Service to follow policies that are appropriate for a nation, not a few chartered boats. Do not pass these regulations, do what is right for all of us.

Sincerely,

Matthew Suggs

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Troy Leek](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:12:53 PM

Dear The Comments,

I feel this is a bad idea and should be rejected.

Sincerely,

Troy Leek

██████████ ██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Daryl Shipper](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:13:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Thanks
Daryl

Sincerely,

Daryl Shipper

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Kelly Cannon](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:13:11 PM

Dear The Comments,

Recreational fishermen need more days of fishing for red snapper. Why give this fishery to a select few of commercial fishermen? Not right and not fair.

Sincerely,

Kelly Cannon

██████████
██████████, MS ██████████

From: [keith bauman](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:13:20 PM

Dear The Comments,

The federal government should reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. This includes things like your pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of the meager recreational quota for red snapper to use as their own whenever they want, however they want. I am a CCA member and grateful they are taking an active role to representing the recreational angler! I strongly suggest you listen more attentively and respect the voices of the recreational anglers across the Gulf Coast

Sincerely,

keith bauman

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Robert Lastrapes](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:20:37 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please be advised that I am opposed to the notion of a headboat quota pilot program for the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fisheries. I am also in favor of individual states being given the ability to regulate and manage their own public resources. Current NIMFS red snapper seasons and limits are beyond belief. There are so many red snapper in the Gulf that they are almost to the nuisance fish category. To restrict fishermen to a 2-fish limit with a 27-day season boggles my mind. True mis-guided and mis-managed government oversight of a resource that could be best dealt with by the Gulf states themselves.

Sincerely,

Robert Lastrapes

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Wesley Babin](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:20:41 PM

Dear The Comments,

I have been fishing offshore for less than 10 years now, but I truly believe that the Red Snapper crisis is being managed very poorly. The latest move to consider the allotment of catch shares in the wake of an unnecessarily shortened snapper season gives me little comfort that the problems with the fishery will be addressed as they should. Even with as little experience as I have as a recreational offshore fisherman, I can tell that the red snapper fishery is not overfished, but it is actually under fished. With such a large red snapper population, other fisheries, like grouper, that compete for the same food may actually decline in population and we will have the same issues with that fishery as we had with the snapper years ago. To my knowledge, the NMFS has not tried to explain the reasoning behind the decisions and changes they are making. It would be wise that all parties come together to ensure that we, as well as future fisherman, can enjoy the red snapper fishery and others for years to come.

Sincerely,

Wesley Babin

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Gene Daniel](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:20:45 PM

Dear The Comments,

Allowing Head Boats to have a share of the private fisherman's quota is very unfair. Bad policy! The regular fisherman is getting shut out more and more with each policy made.

Sincerely,

Gene Daniel

████████████████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Rusty Friedrichs](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:20:50 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please accept this message requesting that the federal government immediately reject all policies that distribute resources to a chosen few thereby destroying access for all other recreational anglers. In addition, I would strongly recommend that the federal government transfer control of all fisheries in federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico to the states.

Sincerely,

Rusty Friedrichs

██████████

██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Dan Craine](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:21:00 PM

Dear The Comments,

THE CREATION OF SPECIAL COMMERCIAL USE OF A
PUBLIC RESOURCE SNAKS OF SOCIALISM.
I AM TOTALY OFFENDED BY THIS TYPE OF BIGBROTHERISM. WHY NOT LET THE PUBLIC HAVE ALL
THE RESOURCE? WE SEEM TO PAY FOR IT, THROUGH
OVER TAXATION.

Sincerely,

Dan Craine

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Roger Dominguez](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:21:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am a resident of the Florida Keys and an active recreational fishing person. I am against catch shares for red snapper or any other species. I can accept a broad management program with the aim of conservation for all. However, for Federal Fisheries Agencies to determine who gets to fish for what and how much is un-American and against our basic democratic principles. Please manage the fisheries equally for all involved.

Sincerely,

Roger Dominguez
Tavernier, Florida.
305-283-2398

Sincerely,

Roger Dominguez
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL [REDACTED]

From: [Mark Clark](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:21:15 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject polices that distribute fishing resources to a few and destroy access for the many. The policy that is being looked allows a select group of headboats to take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. It is another aggressive attempt to force a concept known as catch shares into the recreational sector. Catch shares literally give a portion of a fishery to a business entity for its own use and profit. Federal bureaucrats, among others, believe privatizing a public resource is justified in the pursuit of greater accountability.

Sincerely,

Mark Clark

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Matt Marchand](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:21:24 PM

Dear The Comments,

Stop this socialist agenda. The more government control, the less those with the funds who fund the government are willing to pay the bills. I would suggest you reconsider who pays the bills in this country. Its not the government!!!!

Sincerely,

Matt Marchand

██████████
██████ ██████, LA ██████

From: [Roy Whitaker](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:21:38 PM

Dear The Comments,

On April 2, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) quietly opened a comment period for a pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. It is another aggressive attempt to force a concept known as catch shares into the recreational sector.

Catch shares literally give a portion of a fishery to a business entity for its own use and profit. Federal bureaucrats, among others, believe privatizing a public resource is justified in the pursuit of greater accountability.

First off I believe the states can better manage their resource than the NMFS.

If the government starts taking public resources where will it end?

The NMFS has messed up too many times in the past and they are doing it again.

Sincerely,

Roy Whitaker

████████████████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Carter Fourrier](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:21:44 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any move/policy to support catch shares. As an avid recreational fisherman, I hope to be able to share my past joys and experience with my children. I think it is unjust to give 20 boats catch shares, essentially, and we the recreational fisherman are handicapped by a season that is growing shorter and shorter every year. Thank you for taking the time to read my message.

Sincerely,

Sincerely, Carter Fourrier

████████████████████

████████████████████, LA ██████████

From: [Kelly Pitts, Jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:21:59 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute Red Snapper resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Kelly Pitts, Jr.

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Scott Vice](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:22:03 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Scott Vice

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Marx Sterbcow, Esq](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:22:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am firmly opposed to the NMFS proposed pilot program which would allow Head-boats to take ownership of the recreational red snapper quota to use their own. This proposal is not based on any scientific information or any accompanying information which would support such a radical and dangerous approach. Unfortunately, if this sort of policy is implemented then it will only further erode what little the confidence the public has in the NMFS and NOAA.

Please reject this proposal in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Marx Sterbcow Esq

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Mike Sullivan](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:31:34 PM

Dear The Comments,

This is just another attempt to privatize an abundant resource for a few while punishing the majority. Please reject any proposal to employ this tactic.
Capt. Mike Sullivan

Sincerely,

Mike Sullivan

██████████
██████████, AL ██████████

From: [Steven Gaudet](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:32:45 PM

Dear The Comments,

It is a terrible idea to take a public resource away from the public and give it to a select few people. Do not allow this to happen!! As a fisherman and tax payer I am extremely disappointed that this is even being discussed.

Sincerely,

Steven Gaudet

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Ben Kacos](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:32:47 PM

Dear The Comments,

This is a bad idea for Louisiana, I feel that needs of the public outweigh the needs of the for profit private sector.

Sincerely,

Ben Kacos

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Charles Girton](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:33:09 PM

Dear The Comments,

What about Average Joe, who sees the chance to spend his hard-earned dollars on his own boat, fuel, bait, licenses, tackle etc.? Don't you think he has the desire to have some of these wonderful tablefare for himself and his family? I agree that some headboats are desirable to meet the needs of the tourists, however, Average Joe, the nontourist resident has rights too. I still think it is appalling to place a two per person limit on Texas fishermen since it is so costly for us these days. Frankly, Average Joe can't afford very many offshore trips. Now you want to restrict the season even more? Too bad these restrictions don't apply to illegal aliens. Circle hooks only, please.

Sincerely,

Charles Girton
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX [REDACTED]

From: [Byron Swartzendruber](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:33:43 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am a recreational angler, and I have fished both headboats and private boats for red snapper and other fish. I am COMPLETELY AGAINST any move to introduce IFQs into the management plan of any agency for any purpose. I would like the federal agencies to step back and let the states manage their own resources (and expand the boundaries of state waters to 50+ miles)!

I will never vote for any politician or use any headboat that I know has attempted to sneak this horrible policy into the management of our resources. PLEASE STOP!

Thank you

Sincerely,

Byron Swartzendruber

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Sr. Mister Bigfish](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:36:55 PM

Dear The Comments,

The federal government must and should reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Fish catch policies should be turned over to the states who are much more qualified to police and regulate than the federal government who does not have any idea of what to do.

Sincerely,

bigfish

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Ryan Meynard](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:37:40 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not take a natural resource away from the public and privatize it for corporate gain and greed. Ignoring scientific information, using governing powers to support business, taking away access to a natural resource from the public is wrong.

Sincerely,

Ryan Meynard

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Richard Palmer](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:37:56 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a recreational fishing participant I respectfully request that you not allow a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. This aggressive attempt to force a concept known as catch shares into the recreational sector will lead to the loss my ability to share treasured time with my family fishiNg with my sons and wife. Please keep our natural resources public not private.

Sincerely,

Richard Palmer

████████████████████
██████, TX ██████

From: [Jim Sholders](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:37:59 PM

Dear The Comments,

The situation with federal Red Snapper mananement is completely out of control. The idea of taking my Texas fishery and giving it away for profit is Unconscionable!

Texas and the other gulf coast fisheries have more than earned their right to manage their fisheries for the good of their own residents.

Please reconsider the propsed actions. these are actions that will drive my votes!

Jim Sholders

Sincerely,

Jim Sholders

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [John Hebert](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:40:09 PM

Dear The Comments,

How selfish and uncaring you are to take that which you know little about and give it to those few just to make a buck. Shame on you Washington. We voters will not forget what you have taken from us and our children. State management is the proper solution. Do you not think we want and have the resources to protect our own Snapper and other species.

Sincerely,

John Hebert

████████████████████

██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Jimmy Fisackerly Jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:40:12 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a recreational fisherman and a recreational Boat Dealer, I am against the ideas of catch shares and taking away the right of recreational fisherman to fish for Red Snapper. The confusion over these issues is taking people away from recreational fishing and boating in general. This economic factor has not been mentioned that I know of.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Fisackerly Jr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA [REDACTED]

From: [Danielle Norwood](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:40:18 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. My family owns the [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. We are continuously releasing Red Snapper. THERE ARE NO HEAD BOATS in our area!!! There are no head boats in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], two Gulf coast counties of Florida. Thus we are being left out. This is my family's income. How can you discriminate against us?!?!

Sincerely,

Danielle Norwood

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL [REDACTED]

From: [Richard Brietzke](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:40:25 PM

Dear The Comments,

I see no benefit to the general populace or to a natural resource in restricting the access to a natural resource to a select few entities. It only benefits the few, and assuming proper governances regarding use of the resource are in place and enforced, it provides no extra support of the resource.

Sincerely,

Richard Brietzke

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Bruce Rogers](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:40:28 PM

Dear The Comments,

The recreational fisherman should not have their access taken away to reward special interests. The snapper are as much the asset to the recreational fisherman as the special interest commercial fisheries. Please do not establish policies that take away from the fisheries and give to "big" money interests.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rogers

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Dave Martin](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:40:31 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please note that I and my entire family urge you to reject any and all efforts to enact "catch shares" into the recreational fishery. The idea that a few head boats be allowed to basically "own" a portion of the red snapper quota is beyond comprehension. You should, from an economic standpoint as well as a fairness standpoint, be doing all in your power to advance the ability of recreational fishermen and women to have an ever greater ability to use this finite resource.

Thank you for your consideration.

David W. Martin

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

Sincerely,

Dave W. Martin

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [Jack Hart](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:40:34 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not take steps to limit access to this recreational resource in favor of more access to the few commercial boats.

Please analyze from the standpoint of the vast numbers of fishermen, fisherwomen, fishergirls and fisherboys.

The stocks are improving and the recreational and financial benefits across an extremely broad spectrum of our State is very important to our economy and citizenry.

Thank you,

Jack Hart

Sincerely,

Jack Hart

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Bill Bartley](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:40:37 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any scheme to minimize recreational access to our marine resources.

Sincerely,

Bill Bartley

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Richard Despault](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:40:40 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am outraged that you should even think of allocating any part of the recreational fisherman's Red Snapper allotment to a select group of charter fishermen. What makes them so special. Is it because they sit on your council and you have their special interest at stake. Charter fisherman are by definition, commercial fishermen. Leave the recreational fisherman's quota alone, or increase it. Recreational fishermen do not contribute to the depletion of Red Snapper stocks. It's the commercial and shrimping industry that is depleting the stocks, if it is depleting which has never been proven. You cant judge the amount of fish available by the amount of catch by a few individuals. Do an actual fish survey.

Sincerely,

Richard Despault

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [James Gardner](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:40:42 PM

Dear The Comments,

On April 2, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) quietly opened a comment period for a pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. It is another aggressive attempt to force a concept known as catch shares into the recreational sector.

Catch shares literally give a portion of a fishery to a business entity for its own use and profit. Federal bureaucrats, among others, believe privatizing a public resource is justified in the pursuit of greater accountability.

While the states, other headboat businesses, and hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers deal with a 27-day red snapper season, this pilot program proposes to take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of about 20 boats to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want.

I am asking that the federal government reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

James Gardner

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Don Nye](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:40:54 PM

Dear The Comments,

I respectfully request the federal government reject policies that distribute natural resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Don Nye

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX [REDACTED]

From: [Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Pierce, P.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:41:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

PLEASE REJECT ALL POLICIES THAT WILL DISTRIBUTE RESOURCES TO ONLY A FEW SELECT HEADBOAT BUSINESSES!! THIS IS TOTALLY A POWERGRAB TO BENEFIT A HANDFUL OF RECIPIENTS AND A COMPLETE SNUBBING OF COUNTLESS ANGLERS AND OTHER HEADBOAT BUSINESSES. ONCE AGAIN BACKROOM POLITICS ARE HAVING A RUN AT BACK DOOR BRIBING TECHNIQUES. AGAIN, I IMPLORE YOU TO REJECT THESE UNFAIR POLICIES. SINCERELY, LYNN PIERCE

Sincerely,

Lynn Pierce

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [J E Bradshaw](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:50:16 PM

Dear The Comments,

On April 2, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) quietly opened a comment period for a pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. It is another aggressive attempt to force a concept known as catch shares into the recreational sector.

Catch shares literally give a portion of a fishery to a business entity for its own use and profit. Federal bureaucrats, among others, believe privatizing a public resource is justified in the pursuit of greater accountability.

While the states, other headboat businesses, and hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers deal with a 27-day red snapper season, this pilot program proposes to take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of about 20 boats to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want.

I URGE you to R E J E C T policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

I thank you for your attention to this message.

Sincerely,

J. Bradshaw
[REDACTED], TX

Sincerely,

J E Bradshaw
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX [REDACTED]

From: [travis allred](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 2:51:10 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject this action. This is a PUBLIC resource.

Sincerely,

travis allred

████████████████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Wayne Lobell](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:00:15 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am asking the federal government to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many for Red Snapper fishing.

Sincerely,

Wayne Lobell

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Philip Breaux](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:00:20 PM

Dear The Comments,

I'm completely against your proposed pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own.

I have been a recreational fisherman for many years and I know the amount of money spent by recreational fishermen has a much greater impact on the economy than the commercial fishermen.

Sincerely,

Philip Breaux

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Albert Aftoora B.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:00:43 PM

Dear The Comments,

The concept of awarding a select group of business exclusive access to a limited resource is unconscionable. I strongly urge you to scrap the idea of catch shares for the red snapper season as an unfair and biased concept.

Thank you,
Albert Aftoora
[REDACTED], FL.

Sincerely,

Albert Aftoora B.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL [REDACTED]

From: [Troy Barbay](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:01:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject this idea. We the recreational fisherman should our fish.

Sincerely,

Troy Barbay

████████████████████

██████████, TX ██████████

From: [William Raley](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:01:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not support the practice of catch shares, limiting the recreational harvest even further while doing nothing to replenish the fisheries. It is purely an economic bias racket that has no place here.

Sincerely,

William Raley

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Jim Gieges](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:01:11 PM

Dear The Comments,

The government of these United States of America was assembled to support the needs of ALL the people and not just a few. Please do not support, pass or consider any policies that will allow only a few headboat owners the right to fish for red snapper anytime anywhere they choose. The recreational fisher person will be left with the short end of the stick..... again. We recreational fisher people spend a great deal of hard earned money to spend a limited amount of quality time on the water with our family and friends. This whole red snapper thing is a bad joke everyone knows about but the situation keeps on coming back. Just say NO and NO again in the future!

Jim Gieges
Bradenton, FL

Sincerely,

Jim Gieges
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL [REDACTED]

From: [Scott Clinton](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:01:13 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not support the exempted fishing permit (EFP) from the Gulf Headboat Cooperative (Cooperative). I am not in favour of an allocation-based management system, using a limited number of headboats in a 2-year pilot study.

Sincerely,

Scott Clinton

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [Roland Greenblatt, Sr.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:01:16 PM

Dear The Comments,

This is an unfair proposal. These policies MUST be rejected by the federal government.

Sincerely,

Roland Greenblatt Sr.

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Joel Shine](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:10:10 PM

Dear The Comments,

It is very bad idea to hand over rec. quota to head boats. Let us catch our own fish. I spend a ridiculous amount of money to catch a few fish, head boat has much smaller economic impact vs. recreational boaters/fishermen catching a few lbs. here and there.

Sincerely,

Joel Shine

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [Gerald Doucet](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:10:33 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am against Headboat policies with regards to the red snapper quota. I am a recreational angler out of Galveston Texas. Many times I find I am unable to "get through" the upper layer of red snapper to fish for other species because of the great number of red snapper. Our current policies have done their job. It is time to reconsider the current season length and catch limits imposed on the recreational angler.

I urge the National Marine Fisheries Service to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. I also urge the NMFS to reconsider the season length and catch limit currently imposed on the recreational angler.

Sincerely,

Gerald Doucet

██████████ ██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [William Holland](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:10:38 PM

Dear The Comments,

Catch shares for the recreational red snapper quota? NO, NO, and Double NO!!!!

Sincerely,

William Holland

██████████
██████████, MS ██████████

From: [Franklin Faubion](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:10:52 PM

Dear The Comments,

You have limited our catch to two fish per day and limited our season to only 27 days. If you count weekends, the days that most working people can fish your allowing only eight days or 16 fish per person per season and now you want to give a part of that away. Please reconsider and vote no to the idea of giving a portion of our fishery to a private business for its own use and profit.

This comment from a recreational Fisherman on the Texas Coast for 50 plus years.

Sincerely,

Franklin Faubion

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Douglas Peter](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:10:59 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please DO NOT let headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. Strongly reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many! States should set policy!

Sincerely,

Douglas Peter

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Ronald Williams](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:11:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

What is the scientific evidence that show benefit to red snapper by allowing a few to exclude the many?
What is the economic impact to the states involved? Who is the NMFS tied to---the few -20--head
boats. Butt Out!!!

Sincerely,

Ronald Williams

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Scott Brown](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:24:33 PM

Dear The Comments,

On what basis do you make the decision that a special cadre of boats gets access to a fishery where I as a citizen do not? There is simply no justification for privatizing a public resource.

Sincerely,

Scott Brown

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [Eric Griggs](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:24:37 PM

Dear The Comments,

With regard to the proposal to distribute some/much/all of the recreational red snapper quota to a few headboats for their use only, I want to protest vigorously. The recreational fishermen, such as myself, have been locked out of the red snapper fishery for several years, rightly or wrongly. If it is judged to be time to re-open the fishery, it is only logical and fair that those who have suffered through the closure, benefit from any opening. It would be a mistake to open the fishery to specific headboats to a degree disproportionate to their historic use. Red snapper have long been a mainstay for recreational fishermen and I look forward to the day when that access returns.

Sincerely,

Eric Griggs

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [Ann Bailey](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:24:43 PM

Dear The Comments,

While the states, other headboat businesses, and hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers deal with a 27-day red snapper season, this pilot program proposes to take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of about 20 boats to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want.

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. PLEASE do not punish the recreational anglers and the coastal communities that desperately need the revenues generated by recreational anglers. Your select group will not compensate these communities for this lost revenue.

Sincerely,

Ann H. Bailey, coastal property owner

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Lannie Buteau, J.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:24:49 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any and all Policies that distribute resources to a few and destroys access for the majority.

Sincerely,

Lannie J. Buteau

██████████
██████████, LA ██████████

From: [Steve Hardy](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:24:53 PM

Dear The Comments,

Dear NMFS--stop immediately giving away Red Snapper and other fish to commercial interests. I know you are shaking your head saying that Headboat operators are not a commercial interest, but you are wrong. Any entity that makes a profit off of a public resource is a commercial interest. Think about it-- would you give away timber in the Northwest? Would you give away oil and gas or other resources located on public land? Would you give away herds of buffalo that roam the prairie lands of the West? (Whoops, already did that and see where that got us.) Look at what we did for Ducks in North America--that should be your management model. Commercial guides follow the same bag limits, hunting seasons and take methods as recreational hunters. Outright selling of the resource has been eliminated. The same thing needs to happen to Red Snapper now. Wake up--you are the management problem. Fix your attitude and let us return to the abundance we experienced before we commercialized this resource.

Sincerely,

Steve Hardy

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Ray Weldon](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:25:01 PM

Dear The Comments,

Stop trying to implement catch shares in the recreational sector. We do not believe the lies concerning catch shares. Catch shares give a public trust resource to private individuals without them giving up anything. We do not need Quotas to manages the fishery. We need sound science and common sense which is severely lacking and NMFS and the Gulf Council. Stop giving away the nations fish. These short seasons are a guise to try to force our hand into accepting tags or catch shares or sector separation or days at sea. The Gulf Council and NMFS has failed miserably at managing the red snapper fishery, and it is just a matter of time before all the other fisheries are in the same situation.

Thanks for putting Harlon Pearce in charge of the Rec Data Advisory Panel. "Harlon's Plan" for getting better data for the rec sector is a farce as well. It was a lame attempt at getting the rec sector to agree to having permits to catch red snapper. The members of the panel only want the fish properly counted. We don't believe in MRIP or MRFSS. Both are a miserable failure at best. I can see a time when the permits if implemented will try to be limited in number when the panel strictly was against it. Another attempt at catch shares!

Sincerely,

Ray Weldon

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Keith Harrison](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:25:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

I was disappointed to get an update from CCA highlighting the potential to direct Snapper quotas to Headboats. Why the commercial enterprises get a share of the catch that is outside of the restriction places on the public is unfair. Everyone should have to play by the same rules, and this sort of politics smells of backroom deals and the good ol' boy network.

Enough of this sort of thing. Make equitable laws and hold everyone to them.

Sincerely,

Keith Harrison

██████████

██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Martin Klein](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:30:17 PM

Dear The Comments,

I respectfully request that the Federal Government reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many

Sincerely,

Martin Klein

██████████
██████████, FL ██████████

From: [Jim Crifasi](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:30:20 PM

Dear The Comments,

.While the states, other headboat businesses, and hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers deal with a 27-day red snapper season, this pilot program proposes to take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of about 20 boats to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want. The states are more capable of handling their own resources and don't need the federal government screwing up our resources and lives any more than they already have.

Sincerely,

Jim Crifasi

██████████
██████ ██████, LA ██████

From: [Bill Kinney](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:30:28 PM

Dear The Comments,

So, what you are effectively saying with this decision, is that I can drill for oil, for my own personal benefit and profit, in Yellowstone National Park!

Please tell me your intentions are NOT to arbitrarily allocate resources that belong to the public, to the benefit of a private company.....particularly when we the public do not have the same unfettered access to the same fishery.

There is a reason for our contempt...this is insane!
Surely this "grab" is unmerited, unjustified and just plain wrong. Please reconsider immediately!

Sincerely,

Bill Kinney

████████████████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Mike Fearnow](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:30:31 PM

Dear The Comments,

please reject the bill, and manage the resource fairly for all concerned, including the recreational fishermen, who inject millions into the economy yearly.

Sincerely,

Mike Fearnow

██████████

██████████, TX ██████████

From: [mike farris](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:30:41 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am against this program and do not want it to move forward. Let the states control the resource.

Sincerely,

mike farris

████████████████████

██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Gerald Stone, Jr.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:30:46 PM

Dear The Comments,

I most vehemently object to any proposal that would take a public resource and dole it out to a few individual for thier own profit! WE THE PEOPLE own this resource! It should not be offered for sale to the highest bidder!

Sincerely,

Gerald A. Stone Jr.

██████████
██████████, TX ██████████

From: [Jim Gebhart](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:31:00 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a lifelong salt water angler I have grave concerns about the direction in which red snapper management is moving. Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. How can businesses be given priority over public access of resources that belong to the public? Federal management of these resources concerns me. Decisions to every limit the quantity and push for a season only during June puts TX anglers and the businesses we support at a severe disadvantage. Due to high winds, the Gulf is too rough to go fishing. It is time for you all to "cowboy up" and do the right thing.
Click

Sincerely,

Jim Gebhart, Concerned Angler
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX [REDACTED]

From: [mark.blackbird.sr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:41:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am totally against giving giving the recreational red snapper catch quota to headboats or any business entity.

Sincerely,

mark blackbird
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78746

From: [Daniel Fortier](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:41:10 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not take more fish away from the common man. I go to work year round so i can afford my summer time amberjack, red snapper, and grouper fishing. A 9 day red snapper season means the common man like me now has 2 weekends to fish. Taking more fish away and giving it to head boats who profit from them is just plain theft from the common man. One day, ill explain to my son, how the pursuit of money crushed the common man's ability to take his son fishing. Taking fish away from the weekend fisherman, the do-it-yourselfer, is wrong and un-American.

Sincerely,

Daniel Fortier
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70047

From: [Monte Middlebrooks](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:41:13 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a recreational fisherman and avid outdoorsman I am appalled at the NMFS is considering a program to allow a few select commercial headboats have access to the recreational fishermen's quota of redsnapper. The recreational fishermen does far less harm to the red snapper population than commercial boats and head boats but we are the ones who are paying the price for the overfishing by commercial and headboats. Now the NMFS wants to give a portion of the recreational fishermans quota to select headboats. I urge to vote against this policy and let only the recreational fisherman have access to their quota that was established for the.

There also needs to be an investigation and public explanation on how and why the select headboats were chosen.

Please reject this policy that would distributes our resources to select few.

Sincerely,

Monte Middlebrooks

████████████████████
██████ TX 77511

From: [Leon Bishop](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:41:35 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any policy that would limit recreational use of our gulf red snapper resource. Giving this resource to a few for profit groups would be a bad use of this resource.

Thank you for your consideration

Leon R Bishop
New Braunfels TX

Sincerely,

Leon Bishop

██████████
██████████

TX 78130

From: [Jimmy Hunnicutt](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:50:50 PM

Dear The Comments,

Members of the Group,

In a time when many of us feel threatened by the loss of personal liberties, it is quite sad to see that the Federal government involves itself in an attempt to regulate our recreational activities, especially one so pure and simple as fishing. There is no more special time than spending the day with a daughter, or son, on the water. It is evident that NMFS is not qualified to make judgement on species populations. One only needs to spend a day, fishing, talking with other anglers to realize the over abundance of the red snapper in our coastal waters. As a united group of concerned citizens we ask for your rejection of policies which favor the few over many, for whatever reason or purpose.

Respectfully

Sincerely,

Jimmy Hunnicutt

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AL 35209

From: [Kyle Happel](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ Pilot Program
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:50:56 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am strongly opposed to the headboat IFQ pilot program that the NMFS is currently considering for the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery. This (or any IFQ program) amounts to selected access fishing and is essentially awarding catch shares to a small and selected group. The potential for abuse, conflict-of-interest, and fraud is massive and does not afford equitable access to the red snapper fishery. I would urge your abandonment of this ill-conceived program, which will only benefit a very few individuals...to the detriment (and disdain) of many more.

Sincerely,

Kyle I. Happel, M.D.

██████████

██████████ LA 70001

From: [Michael Stoute](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:51:03 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please donot let this happen , I said this year ago that the Feds goal is to stop fishing in the gulf. What are they thinking, do they realize all the business's they are gonna hurt or destroy. We must all unit against the fed and take back or water and resources.

Sincerely,

Michael Stoute

 LA 70533

From: [Gregory Kalb](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:51:14 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a recreational angler on the Texas coastal waters, I would ask that you oppose any federal program that seeks to limit my access to public resources and fishing opportunities on the Texas Coast. Please reject the Headboat IFO policies which in my view distribute resources to the few and destroys access for the many.

Thank you,

Greg Kalb

Sincerely,

Gregory Kalb

██████████
██████████ TX 78757

From: [Larry Kimberlin](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:51:18 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any federal government distribution of our fisheries to a few. These resources are for the majority not a select few. We are limited enough every year in the reduction of red snapper limits by this government.

Sincerely,

Larry Kimberlin

██████████

██████████ TX 75022

From: [Brad Bongers](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:51:34 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any policy that distributes resources to the few and destroy access for the many. This is very poor fisheries management that's needs to be reevaluated immediately. The federal government is not the entity best equipped to manage the gulf fisheries, but rather the states.

Sincerely,

Brad Bongers

 TX 77904

From: [Charles Goodman](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:51:42 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am a recreational fisherman in SW Florida and I oppose any efforts to use sector separation to transfer ownership/rights of any public resource such as red snapper to any private business such as charter boats or partyboats. Keep the "public resource" public. Not something that is for sale.

Sincerely,

CharlesDGoodman

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FL 33982

From: [Corky Atchison](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 3:51:48 PM

Dear The Comments,

The concept of catch shares should not have even gotten this far. This type of privatization of the recreational fishery is something that would be expected from a dictatorial government. The states are better equipped to handle and manage the fishery of each's coast and has better experience and data to do so. The NMFS should consider their role as a possible over-sight to this situation and leave the regulations to the states. Their past record backs this claim. More Federal interference is something we do not need in the recreational fishing.

Sincerely,

Corky Atchison

██████████
██████████ TX 77578

From: [Bob Frevert](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:00:25 PM

Dear The Comments,

I do not agree with catch shares for the red snapper fishery.

Sincerely,

Bob Frevert

████████████████████

██████████ FL 33458

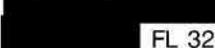
From: [Ray Campbell](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:00:28 PM

Dear The Comments,

Anyone of the members of the NMFS Board who goes along with this obviously bigoted idea should be ostracized from ever holding a job in the public sector again. It is very obvious that this just another rotten political scheme. The sooner that this board is eliminated the better the environment, and the world will be.

Sincerely,

Ray Campbell

 FL 32967

From: [Harry Garber, 111](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:00:35 PM

Dear The Comments,

I want to express my opposition to the newly started "catch share" program that has been started in the GOM. Catch shares are beneficial to a select few fishermen at the expense of thousands of other fishermen. The catch share system opens the door to corruption and back door deals that could allow our fishery to be controlled by outside interest. It is apparent that this system has failed in the N.E. and has destroyed their fishing economy. Why NMFS would continue to push this failed experiment is almost beyond belief and defies any sound logic or any sound fishery management tool. The coastal communities have suffered long enough from the flawed assessment's and management practices of the NMFS, I ask you to please reject Catch Shares and let the States take control of their reef fishing industry.

Sincerely,

Harry Garber 111

[REDACTED]

AL 35803

From: [Dillard Grasty](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:00:39 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not give special privileges to these boats.
I own a personal boat and spend a lot of money in the economy to fish for a few weekends a year. Any more regulations and reduced quotas and it will not be worth it.

Sincerely,

Dillard Grasty

██████████
██████████ TX 77040

From: [David Pope](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:00:45 PM

Dear The Comments,

To distribute fish quotas, particular red snapper, that are allocated for recreational fishermen to headboats or any other entity is wrong. We recreational fishermen are sacrificing too much as it is with the meager quotas now being mandated by federal regulations. There has to be a better way. Please put your energies into finding a better way. We have a problem. Let us solve it together. Giving tonnage allocated to recreational fisheren to any other group or organization is not the answer.

Sincerely,

David Pope



TX 77982

From: [Milton Chapman](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:00:48 PM

Dear The Comments,

I have just been advised about the action taken earlier this month whereby certain boats would be allowed to take a substantial portion of the recreational fishermen's quota as their own. This is a highly suspect move of grabbing from the multitude of recreational fishermen and giving it away to a select few. Nothing could be more harmful to those of us who wait anxiously for the opportunity to engage in our favorite pass time only to have it stolen away by this unwarranted action to serve a few.

Please register my strongest objection to this arbitrary and capricious action.

As an 84 year old retiree who has fished Louisiana's waters for 75 years I have never seen anything like this.

Sincerely,

Milton Chapman MD

 LA 71106

From: [Sean Grubbs](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:00:52 PM

Dear The Comments,

I think this is a bad plan and truly believe that policies should be set by the local state agencies as they are more in tune with what is required to properly manage their area. In no case should federal policies take recreational resources and distribute them to businesses.

Sincerely,

Sean Grubbs

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] TX 77511

From: [Robert Fondren](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:01:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

On April 2, your service quietly opened a comment period for a pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. Your effort to continue to push the concept known as catch shares onto the recreational sector and give a portion of the ever growing snapper population to a select group of commercial interests is just wrong headed.

I would ask that you strongly consider rejecting any course of action that allocates shares of fisheries thereby limiting the opportunity for recreational fishing interests access to this very important fishery.

Texas and several other Gulf states are rejecting federal management of red snapper, and federal bills have been filed seeking to give greater control of fishery resources to the states. I wholeheartedly support these efforts to move management to the states and believe that the states are far better equipped to create healthy marine resources that can be enjoyed widely by their citizens.

The continued efforts by this administration and your department are a disservice to the many millions of recreational fishermen and women who have contributed significantly to the success of marine conservation efforts.

I appreciate your consideration and again ask that you protect individual recreational fishing interests in Federal waters over a select group of commercial headboat operators.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Robert Fondren
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77056

From: william_hrapmann_jr
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:10:11 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please vote AGAINST any Catch share or any rule that gives a business entity a privledged right/access to our public fisheries resources.

Thank you,

Bill Hrapmann

Sincerely,

william hrapmann jr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70448

From: [Richard Peterson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:10:15 PM

Dear The Comments,

THIS is absolutely ridiculous that you continue to cut the number of fishing days for snapper in Texas but would consider giving select private business a portion of the recreational quota. You know as well as the fisherman, that the red snapper fishery is again thriving, yet you continue to act as if it is a depleted resource when setting recreational quotas and days of fishing. You asked for a comment, well this is my comment. There is no way you can giveaway part of the recreational limit to select private businesses for their use and profit. That would just be wrong.

Sincerely,

Richard Peterson
██████████
██████████, TX 77479

From: [David Hollier](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:10:25 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that take our fishery resources away from recreational fisherman.

Thanks

Sincerely,

David Hollier

██████████

██████████, LA 70529

From: [Lou Graf](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:10:29 PM

Dear The Comments,

We strongly oppose the proposed catch shares for red snapper and support the CCA in this matter.

Lou Graf, President
Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

Sincerely,

Lou Graf
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 32653

From: [Vince Hermes](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:10:33 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Vince Hermes

██████████
██████████, TX 77479

From: [George Rau](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:10:37 PM

Dear The Comments,

I whole heartedly disagree with headboat IFQ for red snapper. This seems to me to be just another ploy by NMFS to deny recreational anglers access to the red snapper fishery. Management of this species needs to be turned over to state agencies to manage. NMFS/NOAA have proven that they are unwilling to listen to logic with regards to red snapper management. State agencies are far better equipped to manage the species.

Sincerely,

George Rau

██████████

██████████, LA 70123

From: [Jim Haynes](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:10:46 PM

Dear The Comments,

I humbly request that the recreational take of red snapper not have a portion assigned to a select few head boats at the expense of the general fishing population. I further request that the federal fisheries management group take a back seat to state game and fish regulators in deciding season and limits for recreational fisherpsons. NOAA and NMFS has become the poster children for excessive governance and quite frankly, blatant discrimination and stupidity. That is all.

Sincerely,

Jim Haynes

████████████████████
████████████████████, FL 32223

From: [George Koulianos](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:23:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject catch share in the recreational sector

Sincerely,

George Koulianos

██████████

██████████, AL 36609

From: [john contojs jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:30:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am against catch shares and giving up a portion of the recreational quota of red snapper. this is not representing the people, only a select few. we recreational fisherman need more resources & opportunities, not less. I spend a lot of dollars & taxes on boats, tackle, gas, etc.

Sincerely,

john contojs jr

████████████████████

████████████████████, LA 70808

From: [Darrin Ivey](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:30:16 PM

Dear The Comments,

I believe this would be a very poor decision. Also a reckless decision with the resources of the public.

Sincerely,

Darrin Ivey

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], MS 39564

From: [Grady Lemoine](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:30:22 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am asking you to reject any policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many .

Sincerely,

Grady Lemoine

██████████
██████████, LA 70615

From: [Gene Locke](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:30:28 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not allow polices that give our resoures to a few and denie access to many

Sincerely,

Gene Locke

██████████

██████████, TX 77632

From: [Gordon Lyons](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:40:14 PM

Dear The Comments,

The allocation of a public wildlife resource to a select group of commercial interests, effectively excluding the public access, is untenable, unethical, illogical, and flies in the face of sound management. The North American Wildlife Model that applies to wild game and fish on the North American continent, as opposed to the European concept of wild game being seen as private property, is the GREATEST and MOST FAIR example of public use of public resources. In my opinion, the North American Wildlife model applies here in the case of Red Snapper quotas.

Privatization of a public resource denies the citizens, be they legal license holders or "other legal headboat businesses", of their constitutional rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of (fishing/boating/maritime/coastal/deepwater/collective) happiness".

Who is lining the pockets of the members of the NMFS?

Once again, the average citizen appears to be short-changed, and the long-term health of a public resource is being sacrificed upon the altar of cronyism and short-term greed. Thank God we still have a country where critical thinking and investigation can determine the "transparency", or absence thereof, of the decision-making processes of such agencies as the NMFS.

Sincerely,

A. GORDON LYONS MD

Sincerely,

A. Gordon Lyons MD

██████████

██████████, MS 39232

From: [Michael Lindley](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:40:18 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am against what would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota. I support state regulation of these resources.

Sincerely,

Michael Lindley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77042

From: [William Klutz](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:40:23 PM

Dear The Comments,

I'm quite tired of governmental offices serving themselves and their special interests over the needs of those who put them into office. Even unelected officials have such strings as you well know.

The transference of recreational fishing quota to special groups is an outrage. These resources belong to the people - as a whole - not your favorites from among us. I never thought the welfare state would extend into natural resources in this manner. I'm ashamed this is even being considered and whole heartedly call for the rejection of any policy that "redistributes the wealth" in yet another fashion by a state that sees itself as the source of it's own power.

Sincerely,

William Klutz

████████████████████

██████████, TX 77461

From: [Kris Troncoso](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:40:32 PM

Dear The Comments,

This is unfair. Please reconsider.

Sincerely,

Kris Troncoso

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70433

From: [Theodore Flick](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:40:35 PM

Dear The Comments,

The attempt to hi-jack the recreational snapper quota and award it to a favored very few is an outrageous abuse of authority. Those who operate the select headboats do so by exploiting the resource for their financial gain. They knowingly take the chance that they and their customers are subject to the rules that govern the resource. Those rules must be fair and even handed. The recreational group is far larger and would be denied the resource taken from them to be given to a favored few.

This scheme is the product of a vindictive organization. That the NMFS would stoop to this base and unjust infliction of economic harm to the many, many who rely upon recreational anglers and the recreational fleet for their livelihood is beyond belief.

This proposed apportionment of the resource must be stopped if the NMFS is to retain any credibility at all as a scientifically driven regulatory organization.

Sincerely,

Theodore C. Flick

██████████
██████████, TX 77024

From: [William Happel](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:51:47 PM

Dear The Comments,

This is NOT in the best, better, or even fair interest of the public. Do not endorse this selective appropriation of resources.

Sincerely,

William Happel

████████████████████

██████████, TX 78734

From: [David Carwie](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 4:51:51 PM

Dear The Comments,

reject policies that distribute resources to the few and
take away from the masses

Sincerely,

David Carwie

██████████
██████████, AL 36693

From: [Charles Moore](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:00:41 PM

Dear The Comments,

As an avid fisherman who practices marine conservation, please reject any policies that take a portion of the recreational snapper quotas and give it to a select few. In fact, if you feel that the snapper population is in danger, it makes sense to restrict or ban completely from commercial activities rather than further restrict recreational activities. Recreational fishing stimulates the economy and promotes marine conservation much more so than commercial fisherman.

Sincerely,

Charles Moore
██████████
██████████, TX 77024

From: [Pete Rowell](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:00:45 PM

Dear The Comments,

Reject policies that distribute resources to the few

Sincerely,

Pete Rowell

████████████████████

██████████, MS 39429

From: [Tammy Graham](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:00:48 PM

Dear The Comments,

Like so many individual recreational anglers today, I am extremely concerned about what is happening to our fisheries and management agencies, and I am writing to you today hoping that you will hear the many voices of the individual anglers when we express our overwhelming disapproval of your (NOAA, NMFS and GMFMCs) actions, plans and policies regarding, among other things, the Red Snapper Exempted Fishing Permits.

The plan for what you are suggesting is benefitting a select few captains, many of whom suspiciously seem to sit on your panels, while other recreational boat owners and people are being excluded. This plan should be against the law, if not already. Implementing it will be a slap in the face to many, and perhaps even the end to fishing as we know it.

I find it unjustifiable that a plan such as this should even be considered. It is a terrible waste of time and money for the people to have to repeatedly voice our disapproval of your ridiculous schemes. What will it take before you people can make an intelligent plan of action that we agree to? Why won't you try harder to stop the insane Idle Iron program? Why won't you do something that all PEOPLE agree to?

Please stop the insanity and absurdity of this exempted fishing permit application plan, all other privatization schemes, and put some serious effort into reforming this out of control joke of an agency called the national marine fisheries service.

Sincerely,

Tammy Graham
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78368

From: [Cliffe Laborde](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:10:32 PM

Dear The Comments,

Dear Members,

I respectfully request that you re-consider the restricted headboat pilot program being studied for the red snapper season. As I understand the program, only a very few "chosen" boats would have access to the red snapper allowed to be harvested during the 2013 season. This would not be a fair decision to the hundreds of quota abiding fishermen that head to the snapper areas each summer.

It would seem the individual coastal states would be better able to handle quota, regulations and enforcement of those regulations. Having been invited to fish offshore with family and friends I have personally observed the very professional manner in which our Louisiana W/L & Fisheries agents act. Thank you for your kind consideration of my concerns.

Dr. Cliffe Laborde

██████████ LA

Sincerely,

Cliffe Laborde

████████████████████

██████████, LA 70605

From: [Judy Shaw](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:11:28 PM

Dear The Comments,

This is a plea for the federal government to reject any and all catch share policies that destroy fishery access for so many and distribute those resources to only a few.

Sincerely,

Judy Shaw

██████████
██████████, TX 77069

From: [Mike Deville](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:16:32 PM

Dear The Comments,

I strongly disapprove of the "catch share" being considered. These resources are public and should be enjoyed by same with no preferential treatment. Any policy promoting discrimination of the fishery resource should be rejected.

Sincerely,

Mike Deville, recreational angler

██████████
██████████, LA 70503

From: [Gerald Bryant, Jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:20:10 PM

Dear The Comments,

Vote no to this pilot program.

Sincerely,

Gerald Bryant

██████████

██████████, LA 70360

From: [George Williamson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:20:13 PM

Dear The Comments,

The federal gov,t is really overreaching by literally privatizing a public resource. Please reject any policies that distribute the red snapper resources to a few and destroy access to the many recreationally fishermen. Thank you

Sincerely,

George Williamson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70070

From: [Chris Edwards](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:20:20 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please don't distribute to a few and destroy it for the many (voters)

Sincerely,

Chris Edwards

██████████

██████████, FL 34446

From: [ros shirley](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:20:24 PM

Dear The Comments,

Come On Guys, This Red Snapper Situation Is Really Getting Out Of Control. Anyone Who Has Fished Lately Knows That The Red Snapper Fisheries Is As Strong As It Has Ever Been. I Live In North Louisiana And When I Get A Chance To Go South For Some Good Fishing, It Would Be Nice To Know That I Could Catch More Than Two Fish Or Know That I Could Pick Any Summer Weekend To Go. Instead The Federal Government Dictates When And Where I Must Fish. Please Get A Handle On This.

Sincerely,

ros shirley

██████████

██████████, LA 71225

From: [John Hildebrand](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:20:27 PM

Dear The Comments,

I understand the need for conservation of fishery stocks, and therefore the need to restrict the harvest of the red snapper resource. What I do not understand, and what I very much object to, is the catch share concept and the idea of selecting, by whatever means and criteria, a small group of boats/individuals and giving them a designated portion of the recreational harvest. The recreational quota belongs to the total population of recreational anglers. I very much hope that you will reject this "catch share" concept.

Sincerely,

John Hildebrand

██████████, TX 77954

From: [Ed Sexton](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:20:31 PM

Dear The Comments,

I reject policy that distributes resources to the few and destroys access for the many.

Sincerely,

Ed Sexton

██████████ █

██████████, LA 70810

From: [Richard Younger](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:20:35 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. The federal government is out of control with regulation stop walking on our freedom.

Sincerely,

Richard Younger

██████████
██████████, FL 33966

From: [Don Thrasher](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:30:09 PM

Dear The Comments,

I find it deplorable that a very few commercial boats would be given their own individual share of the red snapper fishery to do with as they wish and when they wish...at the expense of the many recreational fisherman. I also strongly support regional management, and ideally at the state level. This should be based strictly on fish populations in that region; it should not be based on historical take as this can be a bad indicator for many reasons (rougher water during the federal season, fishing pressure, etc.). It should be about managing fish in that area based on fish population and viability - NOTHING else.

Sincerely,

Don Thrasher
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78373

From: [Jason Whitaker](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:40:09 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am opposed to a program that takes red snapper quota from recreational fishermen and allocates it to a select few. Please extend the red snapper season and increase the recreational quota.

Sincerely,

Jason Whitaker

██████████
██████████, FL 32409

From: [Gary Plum](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:53:51 PM

Dear The Comments,

I respectfully request you reject policies that distribute resources owned by "we the people" to select for profit entities as this destroys access to the rightful owner's of the resource.

Sincerely,

Gary Plum

██████████

██████████, FL 34221

From: [Brien Rau](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:54:10 PM

Dear The Comments,

I reject any and all efforts to create catch shares to benefit a select few, or anyone for that matter. This is tantamount stealing. Period.

Sincerely,

Brien Rau
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70121

From: [Richard Bowen, II](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:55:32 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please consider the importance of the recreational angler to local economics and allowing a few to capitalize on public resources like the red snapper does not make sense. It is a penalty to me and my family when we can not harvest a red snapper in our local waters for personal consumption, but the commercial boat can harvest them sell them to me? That makes zero sense.

Sincerely,

Richard Bowen II
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78382

From: [Tommy Cooper](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:56:47 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please consider to vote against starting this pilot program for allowing headboats to use part of the recreational red snapper quota. This benefit to a few commercial enterprises take away a significant fishing right from a large number of recreational anglers. This approach will add to the growing issue between recreational and commercial interests for snapper catch in the Gulf. I would ask you to please refrain from allowing this program.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

Tommy Cooper
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77546

From: [Dan Damon](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:57:40 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not allow Headboats and quotas that negatively impact recreational fishermen, such as myself. I do not understand your thought process at all. It seems that you must be heavily lobbied or paid off to give such preferential treatment to so few people (Boats).

Sincerely,

Dan Damon

Sincerely,

Dan Damon

██████████

██████████, TX 78681

From: [Amy Rawlings](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 5:58:13 PM

Dear The Comments,

asking nicely to the federal government to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and nearly completely destroy access for many of us fisherpeople...thank you..

Sincerely,

Amy Rachele Rawlings

██████████
██████████, TX 77457

From: [Glenn Turner](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:00:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am a recreational fisherman, I oppose the concept of catch shares where a portion of a public fishery, in this case red snapper, is allocated for exclusive use by a select group of commercial businesses. I urge you to abandon the proposed pilot program and reject any future proposals that attempt to allocate a public resource to the benefit of a select few and to the exclusion of the majority. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Glenn Turner

██████████

██████████, FL 32937

From: [George Dunaway](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:00:10 PM

Dear The Comments,

ANY changes that take away from ordinary citizens and give to a special interest entity is WRONG.
Follow the money and you will find that some Politian's brother-in-law owns one of those "headboats".

DO NOT be guilty of the same.

Sincerely,

George Dunaway
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70785

From: [Douglas Davis](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:00:15 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Douglas Davis

████████████████████

██████████, TX 77386

From: [Bill dantuono](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:00:22 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Recreational fisheries for red snapper should be for the PUBLIC not the privatization and greed working against it!!!

Sincerely,

Bill D'Antuono

██████████

██████████, FL 34108

From: [Anthony Manfre](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:00:34 PM

Dear The Comments,

Privitizing and distributing a public resource, namely the red snapper fishery, to for profit private businesses is not acceptable and should be rejected. This resource is in the public domain and should remain there for all members of the public to participate in and enjoy. Headboat IFO will further reduce the availability of red snapper to the recreational fishermen of our country and should be rejected. Further, the management of the red snapper stock would be best husbanded by the states along the gulf coast which have much better management practices for their state populations at large, rather than a federal management team.

Sincerely,

Anthony Manfre
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77833

From: [mark collins](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:00:37 PM

Dear The Comments,

I urge the federal government to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. Catch shares literally give a portion of a fishery to a business entity for its own use and profit. Federal bureaucrats, among others, believe privatizing a public resource is justified in the pursuit of greater accountability. While the states, other headboat businesses, and hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers deal with a 27-day red snapper season, this pilot program proposes to take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of about 20 boats to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want.

Sincerely,

mark collins

████████████████████
██████████, TX 75835

From: [Loyd Brookmole](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:00:42 PM

Dear The Comments,

Dear sirs;

I reject the wisdom of the Red Snapper pilot program (select catch shares etc,) & support allowing the state of Texas to have final authority concerning our offshore waters.

Recreational fisherman are the primary core reason we have the successful replacement and conservation of our marine life.

Plus, we are a huge vote block of common sense bi-partisan folks. thank you! L.P.Brookmole

Sincerely,

Loyd Brookmole
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78664

From: [Warren Dennis](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:11:01 PM

Dear The Comments,

When is this nonsense of our government favoring a few at the welfare of all going to end.

This needs to stop.

Sincerely,

Warren Dennis

████████████████████
████████████████████, TX 77450

From: [Pat Lane](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:20:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

Reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many

Sincerely,

Pat Lane

██████████
██████████, TX 78247

From: [Richard Berry](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:30:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not misuse our snapper shares by giving them to individual businesses.

Sincerely,

Richard Berry
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70072

From: [Mark Evetts](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:30:10 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am against headboat businesses being selected for this pilot program.

Sincerely,

Mark Evetts

██████████

██████████, TX 78374

From: [Frank Bartolomeo](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:30:14 PM

Dear The Comments,

Unfair and special selection of the quotas set on the red snapper quota distribution is wrong and unethical. The National Marine Fisheries Service should be held in a higher ethical standard.

To treat a select group differently than the general public is dishonest and is probably illegal.

I object to such action

Sincerely,

Frank Bartolomeo

██████████

██████████, TX 77566

From: [Ladislav Baloun](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:30:17 PM

Dear The Comments,

reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Ladislav Baloun
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], MS 39560

From: [Don Caffery](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:40:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not take recreational quotas away from who it was intended for, the recreational angler. I respect both sides of the argument and I understand that these commercial fisherman need to make money, as that is why businesses exist- to make money, but they, the commercial fishermen, already have their own quotas. Taking part of the recreational quota and giving it to the commercial guys is hurting the common weekender who is trying to go out and make memories with his friends and family. It's like saying, here's the whole pie, we're going to take three-quarters of it, but also dip into your quarter.

Sincerely,

Don Caffery

██████████
██████████, LA 70808

From: [William Hubbard](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 7:00:17 PM

Dear The Comments,

The proposed policy is on its face imponderable, if not absurd. Furthermore, I cannot fathom how head boats could even come close to supporting the economy in the manner that private sports fishermen do. Please reconsider this shift in policy and restore a meaningful red snapper season for the Gulf.

Thanks for your consideration,

Bill Hubbard

Sincerely,

William Hubbard

██████████
██████████, AL 35213

From: [Allen Sirocka](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 7:20:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that let a chosen few get all the red snapper and put Sportsman out of the equation.

Sincerely,

Allen Sirocka

██████████
██████████, TX 77532

From: [Sam Schertz](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 7:30:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

On April 2, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) quietly opened a comment period for a pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. It is another aggressive attempt to force a concept known as catch shares into the recreational sector.

While the states, other headboat businesses, and hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers deal with a 27-day red snapper season, this pilot program proposes to take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of about 20 boats to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want.

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Sam Schertz

██████████

██████████, TX 78380

From: [John Erickson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 7:40:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

The general public is already being restricted from Red Snapper fishing. Taking more fish away from sports fishermen and giving it to businesses is not right. Please do not support this.

Sincerely,

John Erickson

██████████ ██████████
██████████, TX 77339

From: [simeon coleman](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 7:40:13 PM

Dear The Comments,

Reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

simeon coleman

██████████

██████████, FL 33898

From: [Jonathan Broyles](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 7:40:16 PM

Dear The Comments,

Dear Sir or Madam

I believe it is unfair to restrict the federal snapper season and restrict and the daily bag limit imposed on recreational anglers in an attempt to line the pockets of commercial fisherman and their lobbyists. Also I do not support the pilot program which infringe on the already meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of headboats. Futhermore, I believe privatizing a public resource and giving it to a business entity for its own use and profit is highly unethical and infringes on my rights as a citizen.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Broyles
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77532

From: [Robert Robinson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 7:40:24 PM

Dear The Comments,

NMFS,

Gulf coast anglers are being told that On April 2, (NMFS) quietly opened a comment period for a pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own.

Does it really make sense to let a select group of headboats take a portion of the recreational red snapper quota, just to use it for their own profit.

How does a headboat get to be privie enough to be one of the chosen ones?

Recreational anglers wait all winter long to be able to get back out with family and friends to snapper fish and now we're going to be limited to just 27 precious days.

How do you guys make decisions like this that are so partial to the commercial fishing/restaurant business interests?

Sincerely,

Robert Robinson

██████████
██████████, TX 77478

From: [Carter Young](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 7:50:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am adamantly opposed to catch shares and allocation of a public resource to a select few that then benefit economically from this gift. It is not in the interest of the resource or the public to move in this direction. Please oppose this proposal.

Sincerely,

Carter Young
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 33040

From: [Gary Gautreaux, Jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 8:00:11 PM

Dear The Comments,

On April 2, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) quietly opened a comment period for a pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. It is another aggressive attempt to force a concept known as catch shares into the recreational sector.

Catch shares literally give a portion of a fishery to a business entity for its own use and profit. Federal bureaucrats, among others, believe privatizing a public resource is justified in the pursuit of greater accountability.

While the states, other headboat businesses, and hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers deal with a 27-day red snapper season, this pilot program proposes to take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of about 20 boats to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want.

Please take a few moments to click the link below and ask the federal government to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Gary Gautreaux Jr

██████████

██████████, LA 70364

From: [Randy Baumeister](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 8:00:14 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.
Thank you & regards,
Randy Baumeister

Sincerely,

Randy Baumeister
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78501

From: [Peter Violand](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 8:10:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please let it be known that I, as an avid Texas Gulf Coast fisherman, am totally against the catch shares program.

Sincerely,

Peter Violand

████████████████████
██████████, TX 78732

From: [BRYANT SMITH, JR](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 8:10:09 PM

Dear The Comments,

to whom it may concern, the process of delivering the conyrol of a public resource to a select group with financial interest does not seem to be in the best interest of that resource or the citizens of the us who are the rightful owners. federal interests should release the management of all salt and fresh water fishing resources to the individual states for management.
thank you for hard work on this

Sincerely,

BRYANT B SMITH II
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 32725

From: [THOMAS WEBER](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 8:40:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please STOP this nonsense. All I have to say.

Sincerely,

THOMAS WEBER

████████████████████

██████, TX 77802

From: [Mark Saucedo](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 8:50:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

This is not a fair act and should not be allowed to a select group. Make the right decision.

Sincerely,

Mark Saucedo
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78108

From: [Craig Mixson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 9:40:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject these policies that distribute resources to a few and that destroy access for the recreational fisherman.

Sincerely,

Craig Mixson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77612

From: [Reese Conner, P.E.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 9:40:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

I ask that you please reject any policies that take any red snapper quota away from the recreational angler and redistributing that quota to the private headboat business

Sincerely,

Reese Conner, P.E.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78240

From: [Dennis Bryant](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 9:40:11 PM

Dear The Comments,

Why is the NMFS considering taking away the opportunity from thousands of US citizens who participate in recreational fishing in the Gulf of Mexico of red snapper by allocating the recreational share to a few select businesses? This is so wrong on so many levels.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bryant

██████████ ██████████ ██████████
██████████, TX 75071

From: [Reggie Guess](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 9:50:18 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a private recreational red snapper fisherman I believe it is unethical and unlawful to "give" a portion of the recreational catch to head boats or other businesses.

If you feel they must have a set aside, take it from the commercial catch since they really are commercial and not recreational.

Sincerely,

R P Guess

██████████
██████████, TX 77573

From: [Andre Thomas](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 9:50:22 PM

Dear The Comments,

I, as a residential fisherman, am very much against allocating any of the public resource to any special interest group for any reason. I do not agree with, nor do I want to see catch shares implemented of any kind or by any other name. Not even as a pilot program.

Sincerely,

Andre Thomas

██████████
██████████, LA 70403

From: [Jason Askegard](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 9:51:00 PM

Dear The Comments,

The economic benefit of the recreational fishermen is huge. I strongly oppose this pilot program with the imposed recreational intent. It is clearly more of an unfair commercial benefit. I do support head boat fishing. The pilot program is unfair to the typical recreational fisherman.

I insist the pilot program is rejected. An accurate assessment of the stock for the gulf coast red snapper completed without delay. More control be given to the state level of government on the fishery.

With regards from a very concerned recreational fisherman,

Sincerely,

Jason Askegard

████████████████████
██████████, FL 32563

From: [Paul Lawson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 10:00:15 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am a recreational snapper fisherman in Texas. I definitely do not support giving head boats an allotment of the snapper catch. If this is done, it will be similar to the commercial snapper industry where quotas are sold. This is a very lucrative business, because no new snapper licences have been issued since the early 1990's. I can't go to the federal government and get a commercial snapper license. It will be the same for the snapper head boats. The government is giving special treatment to a few individuals and ignoring the thousands of recreational anglers. Give the head boats part of the commercial quota. They are commercial businesses.

Also the 27 day recreational season is quota is totally unrealistic. To fish in Federal waters of Texas you need to travel at least 30 nautical miles offshore. During the last 14 years that I have fished offshore the weather has restricted my fishing season to 4-5 days maximum. And I can state for a fact that I see few other boats out there. I don't see how you arrive at the catch numbers you quote for recreational anglers. With the current 2 fish limit there is no way that your catch data is correct.

Sincerely,

Paul Lawson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77469

From: [Jacob Courville](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 10:10:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject this proposal. Not only is it injurious to recreational fishermen like me, but it also represents a "slippery slope" towards giving up other public properties to a select few businesses.

Sincerely,

Jacob Courville
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70648

From: [Arthur Rosemond, Sr.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 10:10:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reconsider the actions that will take priviledges away from people like myself and my two sons the oportunity to fish for red snapper. I ask you to to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. Please give the private citizen and our families the priveledge to enjoy and experience what God has given us all. Thank you .

Sincerely,

Arthur Rosemond Sr.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77568

From: [Andy Payne](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 10:20:09 PM

Dear The Comments,

Giving access to precious fishery resources to a few and denying access to the public is unfair, irrational and un-American. This plan would be a shameful default of responsibility.

Sincerely,

Andy Payne

██████████

██████████, TX 77006

From: [Mason Gilfoil, Jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 10:20:12 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a private boat owner and a recreational fisherman, the allocation of recreational quotas or a portion thereof to headboats, who are commercial by definition seems grossly unfair.

Recreation is recreation and commercial is commercial.

Dont take away any more of our fish!

Mason Gilfoil

Sincerely,

Mason Gilfoil Jr
██████████
██████████, TX 77360

From: [Blaine Biser](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 10:30:09 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please don't let another public resource become privatized.

Sincerely,

Blaine Biser

██████████

██████████, FL 33578

From: [larry hafford](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 10:30:12 PM

Dear The Comments,

vote against catch shares

Sincerely,

larry hafford

██████████

██████████, LA 70755

From: [Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Johnson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 10:40:12 PM

Dear The Comments,

Reject the policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many now!

Sincerely,

Patrick Johnson

████████████████████

██████████, FL 34608

From: [Andrew White](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 10:50:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

I reject the policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many! I am a recreational fisherman who want my rights back to catch red snapper. The laws protecting commercial fisherman are out of line and unjust!

Sincerely,

Andrew White
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77563

From: [Robert Shewmaker](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 11:10:36 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am totally against giving part of the the recreational quota for red snapper to select group of boats. This resource is better managed by the states.

Sincerely,

Robert Shewmaker

██████████
██████████, TX 75442

From: [Carlson Young, D](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 11:10:45 PM

Dear The Comments,

I ask you to please reject the policies that will destroy the assess of the fishery to only a few, thus eliminating future of fishing to new and old angles. this will also destroy local small business, and revenues, taxes for cities that rely on recreational anglers for their paternatage.

Sincerely,

Carlson Young
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 76502

From: [Kristofer Schoeffler](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 11:10:48 PM

Dear The Comments,

I agree with the position of the Coastal Conservation Association on this topic. Having lived in Alaska, a very commercial-fishery friendly state, I know first hand that recreational anglers often take better care of a resource than commercial fisherman will. Additionally, much more revenue is generated per pound of flesh in the recreational market than in the commercial market. Please oppose catch snares and any other similar programs.

Sincerely,

Kristofer Schoeffler, DVM
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77584

From: [Kevin Smith](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 11:20:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject the new measures

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77377

From: [Arthur Fokakis](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 11:20:15 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please, reject policies that distribute fish resources to the few and destroy access for the many, particularly red snapper. This refers to the catch shares policy.

Sincerely,

Arthur Fokakis

██████████

██████████, MS 39402

From: [Jeff Chavez](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 11:30:09 PM

Dear The Comments,

It would be unconscionable to give a way a natural public resource, in order for a few individuals to enhance their profit. Particularly if it is at the expense of a large group of hardworking people, whose primary recreation is in the countless hours spent on the ocean in pursuit of said resource. When the federal government becomes a "for profit" entity, it removes the reason for it's existence. That is, to provide for the greater good of the people who subsidize it. Any influence by monetary gain is no more than a bribe.

Sincerely,

Deckmate

██████████

██████████, TX 77706

From: [John Richards, DDS, FAGD](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 11:30:11 PM

Dear The Comments,

"Catch Shares" makes no sense support th recreational angler. That's who supports the industry and that where the votes are for your next election

Sincerely,

John Richards DDS, FAGD

██████████
██████████, TX 77437

From: [Tom Gupton](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 11:50:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

I reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

AND SO SHOULD YOU!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Tom Gupton
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78114

From: [charles Everts, E](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 12, 2013 11:50:09 PM

Dear The Comments,

Certainly headboats who really work commercially should not or never be allotted my share of recreational snapper or otherwise. If any shares are given they should come from the commercial side

Sincerely,

Charlie Everts
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77554

From: [Douglas Melton](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 12:00:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

reject

Sincerely,

Douglas Melton

██████████

██████████, TX 77573

From: [Roberto A Lugo](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 12:00:09 AM

Dear The Comments,

Dear Madam/Sir:

On April 2, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) quietly opened a comment period for a pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. It is another aggressive attempt to force a concept known as catch shares into the recreational sector.

I reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Roberto A Lugo

████████████████████

██████████, FL 33460

From: [Mr. & Mrs. Charles Franks](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 12:20:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any and all policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many, that is not what our country is about. I also think that the individual states are better equipped to manage resources in their own waters.

Sincerely,

Mr & Mrs Charles Franks

████████████████████

██████████, TX 77573

From: [Rolando Raymond](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 5:40:15 AM

Dear The Comments,

I don't think the private businesses operating the head boats would be honest about their share and you would have over fishing.

Sincerely,

Rolando Raymond
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78041

From: [Henry Homrighaus, Jr.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 5:40:20 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of about 20 boats to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want.

Sincerely,

Henry Homrighaus Jr.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78247

From: [Mike Ainbinder](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 5:40:23 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am a recreational fisherman on the Texas Gulf Coast and I do not believe in letting a few select boats controlling the allowable catch of Red Snapper and I want my voice heard to say that I am allowed to catch my fair share of these fish and I will be taking my children to learn how to also.

This can only lead to tighter and tighter restrictions in the future on all marine fish. Red Snapper are plentiful in my waters and I know that they are building in numbers from my own knowledge.

Sincerely,

Mike Ainbinder

██████████

██████████, TX 77542

From: [James Nichols](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 5:40:26 AM

Dear The Comments,

Headboats should not be able to own parts of our Red Snapper fishery. Please reject any policies that would allow this.

Sincerely,

James J. Nichols
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 34683

From: [Doug Foster](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 5:40:28 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am an avid recreational fisherman and have been fishing and paying license fees and taxes for over 50 years. I can't understand how you people can take away more of our rights to use a public resource and privatize it. The recreational fishing community generates far more income for the coastal states than commercial interests. I strongly advise you to stop taking away our rights. The worst part is that you people are not even elected officials but bought and paid for by deep pocketed lobbyists who only have profits in mind. I and others like me demand our rights to a healthy recreatiopnal fishery for everyone, not just a priveledged few. Thank You, Doug Foster.

Sincerely,

Doug Foster

████████████████████

████████████████████, FL 34134

From: [Bo Hale](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 5:40:31 AM

Dear The Comments,

I think that the proposed pilot program to give individual anglers snaper quota to a select group of 20 headboats is crazy and probably being done under the table in a corrupt and illegal manner! This rings of insanity, among the few that are allowed to make the decisions of many!

Sincerely,

Bo Hale

██████████ ██████████
██████████, TX 77075

From: [form](#) [REDACTED]
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 6:03:38 AM

First Name: james
Last Name: tucker
Street Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED]
State: Florida
Zip Code: 34654
Email Address: [REDACTED]

: I dont suport this they need to know how it feel like to loose there jobs like the commerchle fisher men lost theres it dont feel good they was agianst us now we are agianst yall.

From: [Brandon Johnson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 6:50:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject catch shares programs on red snapper and allow the states to manage their fish populations. Please restore the rights of recreational anglers to catch red snapper from the Gulf of Mexico in greater numbers. I have witnessed the increase in red snapper populations in the Gulf.

Sincerely,

Brandon Johnson

████████████████████

████████████████████, LA 70817

From: [boyd charles](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 7:30:07 AM

Dear The Comments,

DEAR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR THE PERSONAL ANGLER IN THE RED SNAPPER FISHERY AND REJECT ANY
ATTEMPT TO PRIVATISE THE FISHERY AND REJECT THIS PROPOSAL

Sincerely,

boyd charles

████████████████████

████████ ██████████, LA 70810

From: [Steven Rodriguez](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: reject policies that distribute resources
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 8:00:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am in support for the federal government to reject all policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Steven Rodriguez

████████████████████

██████████, TX 78750

From: [Edward Struthers, III](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 8:20:04 AM

Dear The Comments,

Recreational snapper season is already profoundly limited (for good reasons). There is no sound or ethical justification for further diminishing that availability of this resource to the public for the sake of making a gift to commercial interests.

Sincerely,

Edward Struthers III

██████████
██████████, AL 36582

From: [Edward Michaels](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 8:20:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

Do NOT privatize the red snapper fishery. NO ONE should be given special rights or special quotas to harvest beyond what the general public, commercial or recreational, can harvest. This is arbitrary selection of a chosen few, and it smacks of favoritism.

Sincerely,

Capt. Edward Michaels
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 32320

From: [Larry Glynn, Jr.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 8:30:04 AM

Dear The Comments,

The pilot program should not be allowed. It sounds like Another scam where a chosen few are going to profit from this already disgusting season that the NOAA has already put on us recreational fishermen. Please put a stop to it and continue to work on giving more power to the states and taking Mr Crabtree and his group out of it.

Sincerely,

Larry Glynn Jr.

██████████
██████████, LA 70788

From: [Rex Appleton](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 8:30:07 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject the proposal on the catch share program. This program doesn't in any way benefit the recreational fishermen.

Sincerely,

Rex Appleton

████████████████████
██████████, TX 77389

From: [Robert La Barbera](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 8:40:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

Giving a quota to a select few will only create a problem for all one being how the select few are picked. I beleave in conservation and it works. If there is a problem with red snapper than close the season for all until it gets better than have a regulation for all to fish not just a hand picked few.

Thank you ;
Robert La Barbera

Sincerely,

Robert La Barbera

██████████
██████████, FL 34275

From: [Gary Moreno](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ should be rejected
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 8:40:09 AM

Dear The Comments,

I think that this is outrageous and should be stopped.

Sincerely,

Gary Moreno

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], TX 77523

From: [Thomas Roche](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 8:50:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

I ask you as a concerned citizen and an avid recreational fisherman for red snapper to reject policies/pilot programs that institute "catch shares". The meager recreational quota for red snapper should not be infringed upon by a pilot program of select headboats, to use this resource whenever and however they want. Distributing the resources to the few and destroying access for the many is a shameful act and should not occur. This is a bad scheme to privatize a public resource under the guise of "management".

Sincerely,

Thomas Roche

████████████████████

██████████, TX 77379

From: [Walter Blandino, Sr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 9:00:08 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not take our share of the meger Snapper quota and give it to a select few.
You folks remind me of Mayor Bloomberg of NYC. You do nothing to help the recreational angler and help only a select few.

Regards

Walter Blandino
██████████, TX

Sincerely,

Walter Blandino
████████████████████
██████████, TX 77079

From: [Gerry Brooks](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 9:00:11 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject the application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP) from the Gulf Headboat Cooperative (Cooperative). How can you in good conscience allow the Cooperative to evaluate the efficiency of an allocation-based management system when they are the sole beneficiary. Individual recreational fishermen have been dealing with a reduced season for red snapper for years and now that the population has rebounded tremendously your organization proposes to let a few ravish the gulf of all that's been done to improve the population and then allow them to provide the so called study and findings. This is a ridiculous attempt to rob the public of a natural resource and very questionable practice on your organization's part.

Sincerely,

Gerry S. Brooks

████████████████████

████████████████████, LA 70775

From: [John David Dickenson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 9:00:14 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject the Headboat IFQ program that would in effect give away a public resource to private, for profit, enterprises. Catch shares are a poor excuse for environmental stewardship and should be rejected as a fisheries management tool. This proposal is unjustified and ill-conceived, particularly in light of the current 27 day recreational red snapper season.

Sincerely,

John David Dickenson

████████████████████

██████████, FL 33444

From: [Keith Sharp](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 9:10:04 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am a recreational fisherman in the Gulf of Mexico. I've fished these waters for over 30 years. I have grown extremely frustrated with the stringent regulations bestowed upon recreational fisherman. It's obvious who the culprits are that damage fisheries by fishing and I can't begin to comprehend how this is rewarded by offering more quota and/or the management of to headboats. I think it's time for the recreational form and drive rethinking and expose the people and policies being put into place. So I am obviously against headboat quota, anything that increases it, and the ridiculous around the consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith Sharp

████████████████████
██████████, TX 77386

From: [Lance Wagner](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 9:10:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Lance Wagner

██████████
██████████, LA 70458

From: [Kiech Jung](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 9:10:09 AM

Dear The Comments,

Honorable Congressional Members

I am aware that there National Marine Fisheries Service is suggesteing a pilot program that would allow a select few headboats fish for red snapper via a quota set up to use their own. Please reject all attempts to allow the concept of CATCH Shares to be created. AND I urge your support to bills that allow GREATER control by each State to control their waters. The States are in a better position to regulate the waters off their shores not the NMFS.

Sincerely, Kiech Jung

Sincerely,

Kiech Jung

██████████

██████████, TX 78209

From: [Thomas Hirth, Jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 9:20:07 AM

Dear The Comments,

Reject catch shares.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hirth Jr

██████████

██████████, LA 70810

From: [Phillip Hand](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 9:30:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

I encourage the National Marine Fishery to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. We need to look for the Win WIN solution not just look out for the interest of a few. This is a natural resource that belongs to all of us and we should all get to use equitably.

Phillip K. Hand
U.S Coast Guard, retired

Sincerely,

Phillip Hand
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70461

From: [Charles Keillor](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 9:40:07 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am strongly opposed to any proposal which gives a portion of the overall recreational red snapper quota to any subgroup. I understand from CCA communications, that the National Marine Fisheries Council is proposing such a pilot program. I understand that the proposed program would allow a group of head boats to have their own share of the quota without regard to the remainder of the recreational fishing population. I think such special treatment of a segment is wrong and I strongly encourage you to oppose such a move.

Sincerely,

Charles Keillor

██████████

██████████, TX 77566

From: [Bill Mason](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 9:40:09 AM

Dear The Comments,

Reject this unfair Act!

Sincerely,

Bill Mason

██████████

██████████, AL 36561

From: [Edward Kinney, F.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 9:50:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

Place reject the federal government to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Ed Kinney

Sincerely,

Edward Kinney F.

████████████████████
██████████, TX 77414

From: [Scott Schomburg](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 10:00:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

Equal distribution of the allotted Red Snapper quota between recreational fisherman and head boats is the only fair way to handle this issue. Distributing special amounts (imbalanced quantities) of the Red Snapper annual quota to select head boats demonstrates preferential treatment with a public asset. I request that you reject the concept of head boats receiving a special allotment that reduces the recreational fisherman's shrinking portion of the annual allotment.

Sincerely,

Scott Schomburg
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77080

From: [Eric Conner](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 10:00:10 AM

Dear The Comments,

Reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Eric Conner

██████████

██████████, LA 70605

From: [Richard Miller](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 10:10:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject the policies to distribute resources to the few that destroy access for the many. Red Snapper fishing should be for everyone.

Sincerely,

Richard Miller

██████████
██████████, TX 77450

From: [Chuck Smith](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 10:10:10 AM

Dear The Comments,

Corky: A little disappointing. Please reject this policy. Thanks and an old friend from Cottonport.
Chuck Smith.

Sincerely,

Chuck Smith
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70453

From: [Shanda Bohannon](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 10:30:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am against the catch shares which limits who may have the opportunity to catch the red snapper. I feel that it will be unfairly profitable for those with this power.

Sincerely,

Shanda Bohannon

██████████
██████████

, TX 76522

From: [Johnny Conrad](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 10:30:09 AM

Dear The Comments,

Whgar are you guys thinking. Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Thanks

Sincerely,

Johnny Conrad
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70342

From: [Brad Johnson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 10:50:04 AM

Dear The Comments,

I reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Brad Johnson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 34221

From: [Brian Hendrick](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 11:00:08 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am asking the federal government to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. As an avid recreational fisherman I enjoy my freedom to participate in the sport of fishing. Furthermore I do not endorse the cornering of any market for a select few to enjoy the profitability at the expense of others.

Please reject any scheme to minimize recreational access to our marine resources.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Hendrick

████████████████████

██████████, TX 78550

From: [Henry Casal](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 11:10:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

On April 2, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) opened a comment period for a pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own.

Catch shares literally give a portion of a fishery to a business entity for its own use and profit.

While the states, other headboat businesses, and hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers deal with a 27-day red snapper season, this pilot program proposes to take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want.

I ask the federal government to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

In addition I believe that management of this fishery should be handed over to the States which have a far better record of fisheries restoration and protection than the abysmal record of the Federal Government.

Sincerely,

Henry Casal

████████████████████

████████████████████, TX 78209

From: [Adam Guillory](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 11:20:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am fervently opposed to the concept of catch shares. Red snapper are a public resources to be enjoyed by by members of the public. The idea that a portion of the already very limited red snapper quota would be carved out and given to a select few for-hire headboats is insulting and illogical. Please oppose any effort to move in the direction of a catch share program.

Respectfully,

Sincerely,

Adam Guillory

██████████

██████████, LA 70448

From: [Bobby Rice](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 11:20:08 AM

Dear The Comments,

On April 2, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) quietly opened a comment period for a pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own.

Please reject these policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Bobby Rice

██████████

██████████, TX 77523

From: [Tammy Percy](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 11:20:12 AM

Dear The Comments,

Reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many! Please allow us to enjoy red snapper fishing with our grandchildren.

Sincerely,

Tammy Percy

██████████ ██████████
██████████, TX 78163

From: [Clint Elliott](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 11:30:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

With all the recent controversy surrounding the number of Red Snapper in the gulf, the idea of taking a portion of the allegedly small number of fish and allowing a select few access to them sounds ludicrous to me. First of all, there is clearly disagreement on the number of snapper out there. Given that, how can anyone claim to fairly distribute an unknown number of fish? This seems like more of a punitive measure than something beneficial to the fishery as a whole.

Instead, I believe we should work towards some agreement on the number of fish out there for starters. Once that is done, I think we will have a much better chance at effective management

Sincerely,

Clint Elliott

██████████
██████████, LA 70070

From: [Glenn Davis](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 11:30:09 AM

Dear The Comments,

This is one of the most disgraceful examples of just how bad the government acts on behalf of the people they are put in place to HELP. Do not wonder why the polls indicate there is a 12% favorable view of our gov't when you pull this dirty under handed action to fill the pockets of a few and yourselves at the expense of the hundreds of thousands of recreational fisherman who would spend billions HELPING the economy, motels, groceries, restaurants, tackle, boats, bait, gas, launch fees, etc.. You are the prime example of what's wrong with our gov't and economy when you are a huge contributing cause. I pray each of you are exposed by name on a 60 Minutes investigation showing just how corrupt our gov't is. You will deserve exactly what you get. You would expect this is a dictatorship third world country but not in the U.S.

In fact that is where the 3rd world countries have "learned" to be so corrupt, by observing from the "pros" in the US.

Hope you sleep well at night.

Sincerely,

Glenn Davis

████████████████████
██████████, TX 77373

From: [Michael Ianero](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 11:50:04 AM

Dear The Comments,

I vehemently object to any use of the recreational quota of red snapper, or any other species of fish, to be allocated for profit of a select group of captains. Further I believe that it is a great injustice that the interests of so few should limit the population of recreational anglers from fair share of a public resource. The economic impact on the thousands of businesses that support recreational angling should be reason enough for any "government agency" to discourage the ideology of "catch sharing". This situation smacks of a corrupt government acting in the interest of a favored few and makes one wonder what there is to gain for those in power.

Sincerely,

Michael Ianero

████████████████████
██████████, FL 34212

From: [Charles Grana](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 12:00:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

I hate to be so general on the Red Snapper issue concerning the NMFS, but never have I've seen such a commercial orientated bunch as the NMFS. They haven't a clue about the Red Snapper stock or any other marine issue for that matter. All the decisions they have ever made benefit no one but the commercial industry.

I'm asking you to please reject any and all policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Charles Grana

██████████

██████████, FL 33905

From: [Gerald Sander](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 12:00:21 PM

Dear The Comments,

I ask you to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. Sounds like some people can receive the "bro-in-law deal" while others such as myself are cut short.

Sincerely,

Gerald Sander

████████████████████

██████, LA 70422

From: [Mr. & Mrs. joe alesi](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 12:10:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

please reject the power of the federal government to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

joe alesi

██████████
██████████, TX 77539

From: [Bill Gezzar](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ/ VOTE NO!!!
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 12:20:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

You can't be serious. This is unfair and unjust to give a public resource to a select few. Red snapper are at levels that I have never seen in over 30 years of offshore fishing. The greater good is served by allowing the public as a whole to have access to this resource. This alone will provide for greater economic good for our state of Florida and the nation as a whole. Increased boat sales, tackle stores, marinas, and the jobs they provide will add to our economy. Allowing a select few to have this access, while denying families the ability to have a representative percentage of this resource is crazy. We vote, we fish and we do represent the majority, respect our rights and do the right thing. Vote no on Headboat IFQ.

Sincerely,

Bill Gezzar

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], FL 33903

From: [Michael Tarantino, Dr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 12:30:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not hurt the recreational fisherman any more. We have much money involved in our fisheries and any further regulation may take our rights completely away. Fairness should be the way to go and not the selfishness of a few.

Sincerely,

Michael Tarantino Dr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70563

From: [Ray Willims](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 12:40:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a redrecreational fisherman, I am strongly against "catch shares." It is better to leave the fish to recreational fishermen; we contribute a great deal more money to the economy "chasing" a few fish than the commercial fishermen do.

Sincerely,

Ray Willims
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77476

From: [Efren Acosta](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 12:50:10 PM

Dear The Comments,

I vehemently oppose the pilot program by the National Marine Fisheries Service that gives catch shares of recreational red snapper quota to a select group of headboats. I, as a recreational fisherman, take great care to adhere to legal catch sizes and quotas so that I and my children/grandchildren may continue to enjoy the outdoors and all that it offers for many years to come. I do not need a public resource privatized in the name of greater accountability! To tell me that the NMFS program will help manage this resource is preposterous, and is obviously nothing more than a political move that will put more money into the hands of a few, while keeping the resource from the ordinary citizen.

Sincerely,

Efren Acosta

████████████████████

████████████████████, TX 76548

From: [GARY SPIELER](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 1:00:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am against allowing 20 headboats this type of latitude.

Sincerely,

GARY SPIELER

██████████
██████████, FL 33598

From: [Joan Jones](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 1:10:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a law abiding, tax paying citizen of the great State of Louisiana, I strongly oppose the Headboat/Catch Share Plan. How can you justify trying to benefit so few at the cost of so many?

Fishing is a way of life here and is one of the best things that families can do together in this busy world.

Who better to manage our fisheries than our own state? Please recognize OUR three leagues and let us all get along.

Joan Jones

██████████

Louisiana

Sincerely,

Joan Jones

██████████

██████████, LA 70754

From: [Buddy King](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 1:20:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a veteran of the Gulf of Mexico for over 55 years i see the problems that you face. I also believe that no one should be granted access to any marine fisheries that is not open to the general population. It is bad enough

when oil companies blow rigs and kill thousands of red snappers without concern.

I can not agree to a law that lets a chosen few access fish for their commercial purposes.

I have been diving the Gulf for over 40 years and have a decent knowledge of the condition. I agree that

ALL waters in the world are over fished and limits are good. Problem is ...other countries!!!

Thanks

Buddy King sailor , diver, fisherman

Sincerely,

Buddy King

██████████

██████████, LA 70769

From: [Robert Anderson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 1:20:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

What are you guys thinking? Proposing to give control over red snapper to twenty (20) private boats! You've got to be kidding me. What a joke! You guys are so out of touch with reality that it makes me sick. Put the management of red snapper in our State's hands and we'll be fine.

Sincerely,

Robert Anderson
██████████
██████████, TX 77074

From: [Joe Johnson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 1:30:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am opposed to anything of the sort because of the following reasons.

If anything were to come of this the headboat IFQ should come from the commercial quota because it is commercial exploitation for sure.

I don't know how the commercials got 51% of the TAC. With only 200 or so commercial permits getting 51% of the TAC, and the other recreational permits getting the rest, what is fair about that. I would suggest whatever the limit is, it ought to apply to the commercials also. I should not think we would have to worry about the commercials for long with a limit of two. And let the recreational fishermen sell their two fish. This absurd suggestion would be "fair", and it would provide about as much incentive for commercial as recreational fishermen to go and harvest some snappers. As in, no incentive at all. The feds did the correct thing when they ended commercial exploitation of waterfowl because the resource could not stand the pressure. So you guys know what to do about it. The answer is not to have the fox guarding the chickens. I personally suspect the commercials are over harvesting their quotas. just as the recs are under harvesting their (estimated) harvest. I see the permittees catching hundreds of snapper, where I can only catch two for only a reputed eleven days this year. I just know after running a twin diesel boat at more than a gallon (\$4/mile) for fifty miles plus, that his fun just ain't fun anymore. And what pisses me off, is I think you guys at NMFS planned it the way. I know there is far less recreational effort on the lower Texas coast than there was ten years ago. I know the commercials are getting fat, even with \$4/gal diesel. I know that I can catch two red snappers for everybody on board in five minutes without even throwing the anchor over. Big ones too. I know you think I'm just bitching. I wonder if I'm being heard. I wonder what the motive is for the regulations in effect now. I know the snappers need protection. I was in Florida at the spaceport during the Apollo/Saturn launches and I saw big party boats (bottom fishers) come in with two or three red snappers where they used to catch several hundred pounds fishing the same rocks. Sometimes 70 to 90 anglers didn't catch a single snapper. Well, a dead snapper is a dead snapper whoever caught it, but the consensus locally was the commercial exploitation was the problem. A caught snapper is not in the ocean for somebody to catch, whether caught and sold, or caught recreationally. But something is f_____ked up when a public resource is overfished, and commercials are allowed to catch 2000lbs. on a trip, and the public is allowed 2 fish for 11 day season. Oh, the commercials have a carte blanche to sneak anything by that they can get by with. This I know because once I was a one of them.

Sincerely,

Joe Johnson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78504

From: [John Ryan Nader](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 2:20:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

I have been a responsible conservationist and sportsman since the youngest years of my life, and I share this responsibility among a wealth of others within the State of Louisiana and throughout the Gulf States. Along with my fellow recreational conservationist and fisherman, I ask that you reject any and all policies that implement any minimization for recreational access to marine resources resulting in the distribution of resources, which I hope to continue enjoy with my children and entire family.

Respectfully,

Sincerely,

John Ryan Nader

████████████████████

████████ ██████████, LA 70808

From: [Randall Morgan](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 3:40:03 PM

Dear The Comments,

As an avid Gulf Coast fisherman for all of my life, I strongly urge each of you to reject policies, such as catch shares, that distribute red snapper resources to the few and destroy red snapper access for the many!

Sincerely,

Randall Morgan

████████████████████

██████████, TX 77566

From: [Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Guerin](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 4:00:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

Do not give a share of the recreational quota to a few private individuals to do as they please. It is wrong.

The data that will be gathered does not come close to justifying this program. Private businesses are suppose to compete for our business! Not be handed it for free without us having any control over the matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Guerin

████████████████████

████████████████████, LA 70739

From: [Alan Lewis](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 4:50:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

I strongly oppose this program. Control of the resource is best managed by the States.

Sincerely,

Alan Lewis

████████████████████

██████████, TX 77388

From: [John Sturman](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 4:50:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

I believe it is ludicrous to allow so called " head boats" and other commercial fishing interests to continue to basically loot the resources of our oceans and not allow the recreational fisherman his share. Wake up people special interests are continuing to ruin fishing for the rest of us.

Sincerely,

John Sturman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 32223

From: [Tommy Poynter](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 5:20:31 PM

Dear The Comments,

I believe that privatizing a portion of the recreational catch quota only to headboat business via catch share is unfair to the recreational boating and fishing community. Headboats take a huge toll on the resource in the first place, able to clean a whole reef or area out within several trips. But to give them a large portion of the quota a way to bypass the seasons ensures that recreational fishing will be limited and eventually not worth boat ownership. That would eliminated the support of that sector of the industry.

i do think that there may be ways to distribute fishing across the calendar year and across the different sectors to spread it out. This derby fishing in the rough sea months of the year is a dangerous game.

Sincerely,

Tommy Poynter
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77479

From: [Charles Romano](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 5:30:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

Do not take any porshion of our Red bSnapper quota and share it with anyone.

Sincerely,

Charles Romano

██████████

██████, LA 70458

From: [Jeffrey Porter](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 5:50:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

I would respectfully request that policies which distribute resources to the few and destroy the access for many recreational anglers be rejected. It is absolutely unconchinable that such policies would be considered in the first place.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Porter

██████████

██████████, TX 78373

From: [George Godso Jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 6:00:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. Our kids and Grand Kids should have the same Rights as we have.

Sincerely,

George Godso Jr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70817

From: [Joseph Keener](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 6:50:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

So a head boat can catch hundreds of red snapper and a recreational fisherman can only catch two per person. What kind of rationale is this? If there is a shortage of red snapper why would anyone give head boats the go ahead to catch hundreds. I guess they have the money and lobbying to buy whatever rules they want to have.

These types of decisions are clear cut that the powers are on the take to the highest bidder under the table.

Sincerely,

Joseph Keener

████████████████████

████████████████████, TX 78418

From: [Alfred Allen, Jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 8:00:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am a recreation fisherman and coast resident and wish to ask as a cca member and tax paying voter that you refuse the proposal to have a catch share for recreational fisherman while allowing charter or other businesses to have a seperate quota and season . Thanks for all that you do for the sportsman and wildlife

Sincerely,

Alfred Allen Jr

██████████

██████████, MS 39571

From: [richard garison](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 9:00:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

Get the federal government out of our lives! Recreational fishermen have the right to access the red snapper population. Giving a select few access to the limited population is just outright wrong! I am not a red snapper fisherman but see this as another federal government intervention into our daily lives.

Sincerely,

richard garison

██████████

██████████, TX 78209

From: [Stephen Young](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 9:30:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

What the ?????? Giving recreational quotas to head boats? Are you going to completely sell out recreational fishermen? Why have you been systematically squeezing recreational fishermen out of the snapper fishery? What's next on the agenda? Seems to me the focus is on stacking the deck in favor of commercial interests not in properly managing the fishery for the benefit of the species nor fairly distributing the quotas. Please don't go through with these plans.

Sincerely,

Stephen Young
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 75570

From: [Matt Davis](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 11:00:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any policies that reduce public access to public resources (like fish and game).

Sincerely,

Matt Davis

██████████

██████████, TX 77096

From: [David Campbell](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 11:00:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject the proposed policies that distribute resources to a feww and take away from recreational anglers. I have personally witnessed these commercial boats cathcing a throwing a multitude of fish on their decks while we were limited to two each. It was disgusting and shameful. Recreational anglers are the true conservationists without profit motive.

Sincerely,

David Campbell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77401

From: [claude.hastings](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 13, 2013 11:50:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

C.S. Hastings

████████████████████

██████████, TX 77523

From: [nathan konarik](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 5:40:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am a united states citizen that pays his taxes, bills, and hold a steady job and have since i was 18. Year after year we have more of our rights taken from us by a select few to fatten there pockets. I am a recreational fisherman that takes his nieces and nephews out to enjoy what god put on this earth for us. Year after year we have a shorter season and less of a limit and were my port is that is all that lives on wrecks within 20 miles anymore. I have a 3 year old now that will never be able to keep a fish at the rate this is going so i ask that you reject policies for catch shares.

Sincerely,

Nathan Konarik
██████████
██████████, TX 77437

From: [Scott Turner](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 5:40:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

It is absolutely absurd that any certain group should reap the benefits of the snapper fishing off louisiana

All anglers should have equal rights to harvest their legal limit and not be disallowed because off commercial quotas or selected charter boat quotas

It is discriminatory towards all fishermen to have catch sharing quotas or selective service quotas

All charter boats should have equal opportunity as well as the sport fishing population

It is my opinion that there are enough to go around

However if anyone is to be limited it should be out of state commercial interests fishing louisiana waters

Sincerely,

Scott Turner

████████████████████

██████████, LA 70607

From: [donald moskal sr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 5:40:07 AM

Dear The Comments,

Dont take away my right to catch red snapper and give to the headboats

Sincerely,

donald moskal sr

██████████

██████████, TX 78593

From: [alfred.taddia](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 6:40:04 AM

Dear The Comments,

to all,

please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

sincerely,
al taddia

Sincerely,

alfred taddia

██████████

██████████, FL 33027

From: [Henry Hauch](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 6:47:45 AM

To: NOAA Fisheries

From: Henry Hauch, Recreational Angler

Re: GOM Headboat IFQ

Dear NOAA:

As a Charter Captain in the South Atlantic, and a Recreational Angler in both the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, I urge NOAA to Reject this and ANY such attempt for individuals of other groups to carve out for themselves and profit a portion of the Recreational Quota of Federally managed fish. The attempt for a small well funded group, subsidized by the Environmental Defense Fund to Separate and in effect Segregate the Recreational Fishing Sector is simply unthinkable, and defies the very spirit and intent of the MS and NS.

Additionally, as this subject title suggest, this is modeled as an IFQ, which rightly deserves a Stakeholder say in the process, which in this case is the Recreational Angler, since it is 'Their' Quota that is being considered to divide for this 'Pilot', and Their access to the resource that is being discussed. This is NOT the Headboat Owners, or their 'Collective's" Fish! Much like the disgusting conversion of a 'Pilot' in New England to a Catch Share program without Stakeholder say, due to technical loopholes maneuvered, this to would force us to 'Trust' the NMFS to honor the clear spirit and intent of the MS....Which is something they have proven untrustworthy on in recent history.

Until Realistic and Reliable Recreational Data as required by law for the recreational Sector in 2009 is corrected, no management schemes should even be considered. Particularly with a seeming stalling of the NMFS in releasing the latest ARS stock assessment does this and any other such schemes need tabled, including the CFH DAS scheme. Data, Science needs to come BEFORE the management, whereas this scheme which really is primarily about economic consideration, 'Hopes' to garner some data as a result of it.

This EFP request needs little imagination as to the real intent, namely profit for a few at the expense of the entire recreational sector. This idea is not possible without sector separation, and that idea was flatly rejected by some 97% of respondents in the Public comments received by the Gulf Council. Additionally the very idea of this 'Headboat IFQ' Pilot goes against not only well voiced public statements, but the Congress also. Nothing that could not be modeled behind a desk would be created....except the profit of a few while the

rest of the recreational community suffers the ever decreasing seasons, while stocks continue to explode. As we know its the poor science that the NMFS continues to use that is creating the problems we ALL face, so rather than giving a few special access and profit, how about fixing the root cause of the problems as ordered by the courts?

I urge the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to quickly Reject this EFP as a primarily for economic consideration FMP request.

No to any Sector Separation Scheme or dividing of the quota that belong to ALL recreational Anglers. No to any scheme that does not address the issues impacting ALL recreational anglers. This scheme like the current DAS scheme being sought by a handful of Gulf Charter Captains has been considered before, and overwhelmingly shot down by the Public. Why these schemes keep resurfacing leads to many questions of ethics and undue influence by Special Interest Groups on the Councils and AP's. That in of itself should send 'Red Flags' up on this proposed EFP.

Captain Henry Hauch
Charter Captain, Recreational Angler.
Florida

From: [Rick Luddeke](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 7:20:04 AM

Dear The Comments,

I would like to express to concerns on this Red Snapper Crisis. As a recreational angler I oppose all bills that would privatize any public resource. Let that States handle the snapper fishery. This 27 day recreational season most craziest thing ever. What's next no recreational fishing at all!

Sincerely,

Rick Luddeke
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78249

From: [Bill Hunter](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 8:20:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

PLEASE REJECT PIOLIT PROGRAM TO LET CATCH SHARES ROB OUR SPORTSMANS OF THEIR CATCH!! THANKS, BILL HUNTER

Sincerely,

Bill Hunter

██████████

██████████, TX 77486

From: [jerry cummings](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 9:00:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

I'm totally against any sort of "catch share"/allocation program for Red Snapper.
You have no right to take away MY fish and give it to someone else!!!
How dare you!!

Sincerely,

jerry cummings

██████████
██████████, FL 33634

From: [Bill Kimber](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 9:00:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please stop taking away fishing opportunities from the recreational sports fishermen. We represent a very large economic impact that is getting tired of special interests taking away our opportunity to harvest red snapper and other Gulf fish.

Sincerely,

Bill Kimber

██████████ ██████████
██████████, FL 33955

From: [Ricky Perkins](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 9:40:04 AM

Dear The Comments,

A recreational fisherman is a recreational fisherman no matter what type of vessel he fishes on. Why should these headboats have the opportunity to take some recreational anglers fishing while the vast majority of anglers with their own boats can not. If is it used for data collection why hasn't the data that is being kept in the captains log being used. Headboats for several years have been required to keep catch limits and weights, but evidently that is not good enough. All this is " is a money grab" for a few select people by using our public resources. Please do not let them get away with this

Sincerely,

Ricky Perkins
██████████
██████████, AL 36518

From: [Ronald Armitage, sr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 10:20:04 AM

Dear The Comments,

you need to reject this big time

Sincerely,

Ronald Armitage sr

██████████
██████████, TX 77372

From: [Thomas Davidson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 10:50:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

Giving headboat businesses a portion of the snapper quota is wrong. These boat customers take no care in returning undersize snappers to the water, killing most. I have observed this. More revenue for the economy is generated by private fishermen. Awarding a few business with public assets is unfair to others.

Sincerely,

Thomas Davidson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78945

From: [Michael Montalbano, III](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 10:50:09 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am opposed to any pilot program that would allow a headboat to take any portion of the red snapper quota to use as their own. This scheme takes away from the recreational quota and provides a select few with a public resource. This is patently unfair and is a swap of a the public's property (snapper) for profit to a few "connected" headboats.

Please stop this madness and turn over management of snapper to the states.

Sincerely,

Michael Montalbano, III
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70806

From: [Terry Migaud](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 11:00:12 AM

Dear The Comments,

Gulf Council,

The Louisiana Council of Underwater Diving Clubs (LCUDC) are oppose to the purposed pilot program to allow about 20 boats almost unlimited asset to Red Snapper in the Gulf.

This program is unfair to the balance of thousands of recreational fishermen in the Gulf. While the Gulf Council allow this relative small group of fishermen unlimited asset, the Gulf Council keeps cutting back on all other fishermen.

It is almost like you are rewarding this small group for being one of the few recreational groups in favor on your equally unfair Catch Shares plan.

The Gulf Council and the fishermen of the Gulf would be better served if you save the platform system before it is too late.

Thanking you for allowing the LCUDC commits
Terry Migaud,
LCUDC Sec/tre

Sincerely,

Terry Migaud
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70001

From: [Frank Crapitto](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 11:30:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

This is very unfair to give our precious resources to a few (headboats) that abuse the red snapper population and penalize our recreational fishermen. You, the fed, have made it almost not worth going fishing when we have been so restricted. Not only do people not fish, they do not buy boats, fishing equipment, etc. This is a big economic hit to our economy besides penalizing the sport fishermen. Please reject these unfair policies. Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,

Frank Crapitto
██████████
██████████, TX 77007

From: [Gene Montoomery](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 11:40:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

PLEASE reject any policies that distribute resources to a few and destroy access and opportunity to the many of us sport fishermen.

Sincerely,

Gene Montgomery

████████████████████

████████████████████, AL 36561

From: [Charlie Mullins](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 12:20:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not privatize a public resource. When fish are available to be harvested for private profit appropriate decisions are rarely made.

Sincerely,

CMM

██████████

██████████, TX 78751

From: [James OConnor](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 12:50:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please vote against any policy that gives away the rights of recreational fisherman such as myself and gives authority over my fishing to a business that profits on a reduced limit for me and more profit for them. The fishing is for everyone not just business owners.

Sincerely,

James OConnor

██████████

██████████, TX 77520

From: [philip benvenuto](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 12:50:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

please reject proposals which give headboats preference over the every day common recreational fisherman the chance to catch red snapper fish or other sport or food fish. Let the states decide how they should regulate fishing quotas for the fish resources in question. Thank you.

Sincerely,

philip benvenuto
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 34452

From: [Clint Croft](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 1:20:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

I ask the federal government to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Clint M. Croft

██████████

██████████, TX 77536

From: [John Scott, DVM](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 1:20:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

A separate quota for headboats is unfair!!

Also consider changing the legal size limit to No Size Limit, but keep the first 2 snapper caught. This would limit small snapper mortality from the anglers (a lot of those on headboats) fishing in the bottom "murk layer" where the undersized snapper hang out) and hauling up undersized fish after fish. Most of these don't survive. The larger legal sized snapper hang in the mid-water column. I know this because I dive the near-shore oil rigs and have seen it first hand.

Sincerely,

John Scott DVM
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77573

From: [Gregory DeLee](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 2:00:39 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am wholly opposed to the allocation of recreational fisheries quota to private entities. The funding that allows effective management of our fisheries is derived in large part from taxation of private citizens. Giving over use of a fishery to commercial interest to the exclusion of recreational anglers is a misguided program that should be of concern to all private citizens.

Sincerely,

Gregory DeLee

████████████████████

████████████████████, LA 70706

From: [Kelvin Tschoepe](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 2:40:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

I respectfully ask the federal government to reject policies for headboat businesses and allow the states to regulate the policies for recreational fisherman like me.

Sincerely,

Kelvin Tschoepe
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78155

From: [Susan Singleton](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 2:50:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reconsider a "pilot program" that would take federal resources, which belong to all citizens, and give them to a few, to use as their own.

Privatizing public resources is not the way to approach conservation. By disenfranchising the recreational angler you take away his incentive to protect the resource.

The snapper season is so short and so limited that the recreational angler's impact will already be very low indeed. To further restrict these limited catches by designating them for a few "headboats" is in effect destroying the recreational angler's access to this resource.

Please protect our rights by rejecting catch shares for the recreational angler.

Sincerely,

Susan Singleton
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77087

From: [dwayne chapman](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 4:00:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

I ask the government to reject policies that cater to a few businesses. These fishing waters belong to all tax payers, not just a few. Recreational fishermen and charter boat captains need the red snapper season to be equal for all.

Sincerely,

dwayne chapman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 71055

From: [Walter Brothers](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 4:10:12 PM

Dear The Comments,

The idea of having "catch shares" distributed to a few select "head boats" is yet another attempt to take away recreational fishing from individuals by the Federal entities. We strongly disagree with this proposed plan and support allowing State control to better manage the fisheries that affect us most. Not only can, and will we do what is best for the individual fisheries, but also for the recreational fishermen that support healthy fisheries for our children. This will be successful without the federal bureaucracy that has its self interest at stake.

Sincerely,

Walter L. Brothers

██████████
██████████, TX 78411

From: [Ted Stephens](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 4:40:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any policies that give red snapper access to a few, and ignor the many

Sincerely,

Ted M Stephens

██████████

██████████, TX 78404

From: [Herbert Meyer, III](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 4:50:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

Our fish populations are a public natural resource. Please reject the pilot program that would take recreational fishing quotas from the public and give to catch shares to headboats.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

H W H Meyer, III
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77058

From: [Bryan Ables](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 5:00:12 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a registered voter and American citizen, I m asking that NMFS reject any recreational quotas given to private business or "Headboats"

Sincerely,

Thank you for your consideration on this

██████████

██████████, TX 78132

From: [David Jones](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 5:10:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

On April 2, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) quietly opened a comment period for a pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. It is another aggressive attempt to force a concept known as catch shares into the recreational sector.

Catch shares literally give a portion of a fishery to a business entity for its own use and profit. Federal bureaucrats, among others, believe privatizing a public resource is justified in the pursuit of greater accountability.

While the states, other headboat businesses, and hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers deal with a 27-day red snapper season, this pilot program proposes to take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of about 20 boats to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want.

I am asking to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

David Jones

██████████
██████████, TX 77586

From: [Jimmy Raper](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 5:40:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

Catch shares literally give a portion of a fishery to a business entity for its own use and profit. I urge you to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Raper

██████████

██████████, TX 78336

From: [Mr. & Mrs. dale myers](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 6:00:07 PM

Dear The Comments,
reject keep it septrete

Sincerely,

dale myers
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], MS 39401

From: [John Folks](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 6:20:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

On April 2, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) quietly opened a comment period for a pilot program that would let a select group of headboats take ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. It is another aggressive attempt to force a concept known as catch shares into the recreational sector.

Catch shares literally give a portion of a fishery to a business entity for its own use and profit. Federal bureaucrats, among others, believe privatizing a public resource is justified in the pursuit of greater accountability.

While the states, other headboat businesses, and hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers deal with a 27-day red snapper season, this pilot program proposes to take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of about 20 boats to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want.

I respectfully ask that you reject any policies that distribute resources to the few and access to the many!

Sincerely,

John Folks

████████████████████
████████████████████, FL 32312

From: [Kimi Duplichan](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 6:40:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

I just discovered that the NMFS secretly had a comment period suggesting a sneaky program that would let some chosen headboats (about 20 chosen ones) take a large portion of the already ridiculously small recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. We are getting 27 days to fish for red snapper? You know us working tax payers can usually only go fishing on weekends and on calm weather days at that! So the 27 days turns into about 3-5 days if we are lucky. Now the federal officials want to give a "select few" who I assume paid off someone at NOAA, part of our small red snapper quota????

This is just another blatant example of the federal government trying to force a concept known as catch shares into the recreational sector. Catch shares literally give a portion of a fishery to businesses who "pay off" someone for their own use and profit. GIVE US A BREAK! Give the power to the states! Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida can set our regulations AND put money back into our local economy! The government has not a clue how much we "Anglers" and boat owners spend each year (millions) trying to enjoy actually fishing locally (sustainably) and bringing food to our tables.

It is the latest in a string of uneducated ridiculous decisions that serve to ratchet down the public's access to a BOOMING RED SNAPPER POPULATION! YES, there are a lot of red snapper out there!

Please do something to STOP this and let the recreational fishermen fish a normal season. These decisions have already taken most of our friends out of the boat owning and fishing sport, it's not worth it!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kimi Duplichan

████████████████████
██████████, TX 77057

From: [Sidney Hulett, Jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 7:20:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please stop taking away our way of life. It seems the Government wants to controll everything. Taking more taxes from the working class only to give to the professional voteing freeloaders and illegals. And now you want to give our fishing away to big business fishers. Some way, some how this trind must stop.

Sincerely,

Sidney Hulett Jr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70665

From: [martin tait](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 8:30:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

REJECT POLICIES THAT DI STRIBUTE RESOURCES TO THE FEW AND DESTROY ACCESS FOR THE MANY, NO WAY TO THIS PILOT PROGRAM !!!!!

Sincerely,

martin tait

██████████

██████████, NC 28403

From: [Carmen Delgado](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 9:40:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

Stop this!

Sincerely,

Carmen Delgado

██████████

██████████, TX 77521

From: [Terry Pool](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 10:10:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Terry Pool

████████████████████

██████████, TX 77316

From: [James Penrod](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 10:20:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

Why should there be any group or individual that is favored over another?
There hardly seems justification for such partiality!

Sincerely,

James C. Penrod, M.D.

██████████ ██████████

██████████, FL 32456

From: [Anthony Valenti, Jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 10:20:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am firmly against any type of "catch share" system concerning red snapper fishing in the GOM.

Regards,

Sincerely,

LTC Anthony V Valenti Jr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70448

From: [Micheal Pettersen](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 11:30:12 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any legislation which privatizes our wildlife resources. Furthermore, please support legislation which gives States the power to regulate its fisheries.

Thank you

Shawn Pettersen

Sincerely,

Micheal Pettersen

██████████

██████████, TX 77536

From: [Russell Eberley](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 14, 2013 11:50:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

Let's keep red snapper restrictions where they are and do not include headboat businesses. We cannot continue to overfish and ruin our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Russell Eberley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77539

From: [Gary Ewald](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 7:40:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

I request that the United States Federal Government reject policies that distribute natural fish resources to the few and destroy access for the many recreational anglers.

Gary Ewald , concerned Texas recreational angler

Sincerely,

Gary Ewald

██████████
██████████, TX 77089

From: [James Tarver](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 7:50:09 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am a fisherman who does not want to lose my right to fish for red snapper due to the quota being given to head boats. The amount of money spent by recreational fishermen far exceeds the amount contributed by charter boats both to the community and for individual license.

Please choose to not give the quota for recreational fishermen to the charter fishing industry.

Thanks,
James Tarver
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Texas 77531
[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

James Tarver
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77531

From: [Ted Venker](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 8:00:08 AM

Dear The Comments,

As a recreational private boat owner, who has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on this sport, I respectfully ask that you reject any effort to limit red snapper fishing to the public in favor of extending it to private headboats and/or commercial fishing. These efforts would eliminate millions of dollars from the economy of area's that need it desperately as well as impose a severe disservice to the public.

Thank you,

Billy Simmons- Orange Beach, AL

Sincerely,

Ted Venker

██████████
██████████, TX 77429

From: [Brian Moldaner](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 8:20:07 AM

Dear The Comments,

Catch shares take this already limited public resource from thousands of recreational fisherman and distributes it to a select few for profit. This process is unfair and shows how little your council cares for the average citizen. Please show that you have some level of competence in your position of authority and do not support catch shares.

Sincerely,

Brian Moldaner
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70364

From: [Jimmie Riley](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 8:30:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

It's hard to believe that in 2013 a program privatizing a public resource would be considered in any form.

Sincerely,

Jimmie Riley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77043

From: [Elisa Ginn](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 8:40:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject the policies you are considering for giving a select group of headboats a share of the recreational fisheries for Red Snapper.

Sincerely,

Elisa Ginn
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77515

From: [John Reeder](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 8:50:07 AM

Dear The Comments,

The red snapper population off the Texas coast is healthier than at anytime in my lifetime. It simply makes no sense to give a renewable public resource to commercial (business) entities so that they can sell those fish to the public. Boat owning recreational fisherman whom fish for the love of fishing spend a substantial amount of money (much more than anyone fishing from a headboat or buying fish at the market) to be able to go fishing. This idea of giving a greater amount of the public resource to private businesses to sell to the public is just ridiculous. If the government was actually concerned about the recreational fisherman they would be moving the other direction and taking the fish from the commercial interest and giving it back to the public. Which should result in longer seasons and give the for hire boats more time to sell fishing trips to the public. Only people who wouldn't be happy would be the guys whom the government has wrongly been allowing exclusive rights to our snapper. They've had a good run. Let them find someone else to give them free stuff to sell. It's a shame that we are heading down a path in which to go fishing I have to buy fish from someone the government said can catch them.

Sincerely,

John Reeder
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78666

From: [Rafe Antill, PEART-12](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 9:10:07 AM

Dear The Comments,

We say NO to catch shares.
Rafe Antill
President
LCUJC
Louisiana Council of Underwater Dive Clubs

Sincerely,

Rafe Antill PEART-12
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70360

From: [Luca Albelice](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 9:20:04 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am asking the federal government to reject the Application for an Exempted Fishing Permit for a Pilot Study by Gulf of Mexico Headboats Evaluating an Allocation-Based Management System.

Sincerely,

Luca Albelice
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77515

From: [LG Abele](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 9:20:14 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am against catch shares of any type without compensation to the public who owns the fish.

Sincerely,

LGA

██████████
██████████, FL 32312

From: [David Sanderson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 9:30:12 AM

Dear The Comments,

Ladies & Gentlemen, I strongly appose the Headboat IFQ program. I strongly support the management of the Gulf of Mexico resources on the state level. Alabama and its citizens have been an excellent example of management with the artificial reef programs which are THE reason we have such an abundance of reef fish in the Northern Gulf of Mexico.

Sincerely,

David Sanderson

████████████████████
████████████████████, AL 36530

From: [Tom Delchamps](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 9:30:29 AM

Dear The Comments,

I would like to express my disapproval of the headboat IFQ proposal. Taking away any of the already ridiculously small recreational quota to give to what is effectively the commercial sector is a travesty.

Sincerely,

Tom Delchamps
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], AL 36604

From: [jimmy pasteka](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 9:30:32 AM

Dear The Comments,

I ask the federal government to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many
Quit taking from the public and giving to the private .
By creating more Government and government jobs
These are unfair practices

Sincerely,

jimmy pasteka
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77461

From: [Thomas Mouton](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 9:40:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. States are much more capable to manage our marine resources than the federal government.

Thanks,

Sincerely,

Thomas Mouton
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70508

From: [John Munnerlyn](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:02:43 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am a firm believer in not giving our national resources to a few individuals for them to profit while others are not allowed the use of the resources. Please do not pass such laws.

Sincerely,

John Munnerlyn
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70563

From: [Ned McMath](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:02:46 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not give away our public resources (red snapper quota) to a few commercial head boats. Recognize that the best economic value to our state and the country is the value per pound of fish caught by the recreational fisherman.

Sincerely,

Ned McMath

████████████████████

██████, FL 32583

From: [Steven Hartley](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:03:32 AM

Dear The Comments,

This proposed pilot program should not be allowed to move one step further toward implementation. It is going to give a select few the availability of a resource that is denied to the masses. This is simply another way to implement catch shares. Catch shares are a terrible management tool, that simply takes the resource from the public and gives it to a few to get rich. Do not allow select group of headboats to take ownership of recreational red snapper quota.

Sincerely,

Steven Hartley (Fisherman/Voter)

██████████

██████████, LA 70094

From: [Andrew Crawford](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:03:43 AM

Dear The Comments,

As a recreational angler I oppose the headboat IFQ. In essence it is reallocating snapper set aside for recreational purposes and giving it to a commercial entity. I also feel that states should be granted the responsibility of managing our fisheries. By the way, I vote.

Sincerely,

Andrew Crawford

████████████████████

████████████████████, LA 70808

From: [George More, IV](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:10:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

I disagree with this proposal. Recreational anglers should have as much right to snapper quotas as before. More importantly, quotas for the entire Gulf of Mexico should not be considered as inclusive but rather state governed. Territorial fish limits should be increased to 30 nautical miles with state governed limits based on local assessment. Days to fish should be increased to at least 90 days from start to finish.

Sincerely,

George More

██████████
██████████, TX 77024

From: [Justin Knee](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:10:11 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject these policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many

Sincerely,

J Knee

██████████
██████████, TX 77070

From: [milton cowart](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:20:24 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am totally baffled by the decisions being made to manage our fisheries. From the removal of habitat (the offshore rigs) to further restrictions on recreational fishermen, it just stinks with unethical behavior by those that have the power to make decisions impacting our natural resources. First stop removing the habitat that is essential to our marine resources, secondly stop this crazy move to further limit recreational fishermen from being able to just fish.

Sincerely,

milton cowart
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77657

From: [Milford Posey, III](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:20:27 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not try and privatize the fishery in any way. Also, we would like for the states to take over control of our own fisheries. We are more than capable of doing this. MUCH more capable than you!

Sincerely,

Milford Posey
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70449

From: [Lamar Youngblood](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:31:43 AM

Dear The Comments,

As a recreational user that is heavily invested in the gulf coast, I ask that you reject any policies that allocate recreational quotas for snapper to commercial fishermen.

Sincerely,

Lamar Youngblood

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77345

From: [Stryker Emmerton](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:32:07 AM

Dear The Comments,

I have fished the texas gulf coast waters for the past 30 years and sincerely believe that the state of texas is more familiar, better suited for control, and can deal with the fisheries better than any federal authority. To take the "catch" from recreational fishermen, and give to head boats would be and will be unfair, as well as dissaterous. Head boats only support the few boat owners and does not generate near the dollars for the state that recreational fishermen. 350,000 recreational fisherman to be penalized for 20-30 head boats is ridiculous and there is nothing to gain.

Sincerely,

Stryker Emmerton
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77063

From: [Burden Edmonds](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:32:10 AM

Dear The Comments,

This is a terrible proposal and is unjust to so many. Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. This is my kids favorite past time and to deny his right to fish is just wrong!

Sincerely,

Burden Edmonds

████████████████████

████████████████████, LA 70808

From: [Hugh Burris Jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:41:51 AM

Dear The Comments,

This proposed action by the NMFS is outrageous; to even entertain the idea that allotting a portion of the recreational snapper harvest to commercial interests is absolutely WRONG !!!!

Sincerely,

Hugh Burris Jr
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77546

From: [Drew Fourrier](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:00:13 AM

Dear The Comments,

Reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Drew Fourrier

██████████

██████████, LA 70808

From: [David T. Mulford](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:00:25 AM

Dear The Comments,

I reject and urge you to reject any policies that provide catch shares to any entity for its own use and profit which in turn distributes resources to the few and destroy access for the many recreational tax paying fishermen.

Sincerely,

David Todd Mulford

██████████

██████████, LA 70806

From: [Audie Nelson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:00:36 AM

Dear The Comments,

Why would we consider giving a select few control of a fishery that belongs to all of the people. No sound reason to allow this, vote against unsound proposals such as these.

Sincerely,

Audie Nelson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78602

From: [Gregg Bell](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:10:09 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Gregg Bell

████████████████████

██████████, TX 78745

From: [Christopher Flynn](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:20:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

As a recreational fisherman in the Gulf of Mexico, I find it offensive and unjust to skew our public resource allocation toward for-profit entities. Please reject the IFQ proposals and allow our citizens the rights to catch Red Snapper and other species in the Gulf. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christopher Flynn

██████████

██████████, FL 33706

From: [Dan Calahan](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:20:12 AM

Dear The Comments,

They so not deserve special rights above the recreational FISHERMAN. This is a power grab that can not be supported.

Sincerely,

.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70433

From: [Ovide Miller](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:20:14 AM

Dear The Comments,

Are you guys crazy? Do you have any clue as to what you are doing? What gives you or anyone the right to privatize a public resource? Why don't you give the states the responsibilities of managing their own resources? They seem to know a whole lot more about what they are doing. Trying to use a one size fits all management policy for the entire coastal estuary is nuts

Sincerely,

Ovide Miller

████████████████████

████████████████████ LA 70775

From: [Richard Meares](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:20:17 AM

Dear The Comments,

I find it outrageous that a organized group of Head Boat Captains can get preferential treatment for their business when the large group of recreational boater/ fisherman are losing the ability to fish due to stringent quotas.

Sincerely,

Rick Meares

██████████
██████████, FL 33477

From: [Mark Bartilucci](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:20:20 AM

Dear The Comments,

Any program that treats a subset of a population (in this case, a select group of 20 headboats) differently than the rest of the public raises serious questions as to its fairness as well as the integrity of those who sponsor and promote it. What criteria were used to select the 20 headboats exempt from the limits imposed on other commercial and recreational fishermen?

As a scientist myself, I do not understand the technical basis for this program. How specifically is the data from the 20 boats going to be used to guide the management program?

I oppose this program both from an ethical as well as technical view point and encourage you withdraw it from consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Bartilucci
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77706

From: [Ladd Hey](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:30:09 AM

Dear The Comments,

We have three head boats at Port Fourchon, LA.

They are full of bus loads of people that come from as far away as Chicago. They get off the bus and fish and get back on the bus and go home. Taking our fish with them. They don't contribute very much in the way of taxes for LA.

I and other recreational fishermen will spend thousands of dollars on camps, taxes, food, licences, bait and tackle in LA.

Please come to your senses and don't allow the 20 head boats to away our rights to fish.

Ladd Hey

Sincerely,

Ladd Hey

██████████

██████████, MS 39232

From: [walter Hackett](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:30:12 AM

Dear The Comments,

It is of my opinion that a resource such as fish in federal waters(Red snapper) should be shared by all if any are to be taken during a rebuilding stock program. To allocate these stocks to only a few is unconsonable.although we dont have the lobbying dollars ,we do vote ,please do what is right for the community,the resource,and constitutents.

Sincerely,

Walter w Hackett registered voter

██████████

██████████, FL 33914

From: [Spencer Collins](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:40:36 AM

Dear The Comments,

I encourage each of you to not give the headboats the right to control the recreational quotas for red snapper. It is not right to consolidate this much quota into a few hands while practically disregarding other recreational anglers.

Sincerely,

Spencer Collins
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78763

From: [Carey Fracht](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:40:38 AM

Dear The Comments,

Last time that I wrote you a letter I was very kind in the way that I worded it. Not this time! This CRAP with the headboat program has me so mad that I could spit nails! What do you have against the average recreational fisherman? Most of you probably don't have a clue as to what is involved in having to run 55 to 60 miles offshore to catch 2 stinkin' red snapper per person! And now you want to take even that away from the average angler! You guys need to stop screwing the recreational fisherman! In fact, why don't you just let the state of Texas handle the red snapper issue for our waters so that this whole situation could be overseen using a little COMMON SENSE!!!!

Sincerely,

Carey Fracht
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77701

From: [David Rutledge](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:50:29 AM

Dear The Comments,

The US and state waters, and the fish which live there belong to people of the US-NOT to the Federal Govt. and certainly not to a select chosen few designated by an agency of the government. Recreational fishing is equally important as the commercial industry, and perhaps more so since a growing majority of fishermen practice catch and release in order to preserve the resource. Please justify why a select few boats should have control of a resource which belong to all of us. Another power grab to gain even more and more control of EVERYTHING? I am sick of this political approach as opposed to good old common sense and proven scientific data as a basis for decisions. Do not let the NMFS exclude the recreational anglers !!

Thanks you.

Sincerely,

David Rutledge

████████████████████
██████████, TX 75209

From: [Charles D Parker](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:50:32 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am writing to express my objection to policies that distribute recreation quotas of Red Snapper to a select group of Headboats and commercial interests. This policy would greatly restrict the recreational fisherman's access to ever smaller numbers of Red Snapper during the recreational fishing seasons. The recreational fishing season is too short at 27 days and the numbers of Red Snapper have continued to increase, yet the commercial catch just seems to be always increasing while the recreational fisherman is being restricted more. What I hear and read the numbers of Red Snapper are now on the increase and yet the recreational fisherman is the most penalized in setting of these quota numbers and the length of the season.

I am asking this group to reject policies that distribute resources to these few headboat interests and DO NOT limit the recreational fisherman even more. Thank you.

Charles D. Parker
[REDACTED], MS 39525

Sincerely,

Charles D. Parker
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], MS 39525

From: [Chip Blackburn](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:50:49 AM

Dear The Comments,

As a federally permitted charter fishing vessel owner operator with almost thirty years in the business I am totally opposed to any sort of sector separation as well as the EFP plan proposed for headboats.

The federal system is corrupt and has no credibility with the majority of recreational and commercial anglers.

The states do a far better job of managing their own fish and wildlife resources and should immediately demand control over managing their own marine resources. The coastal states are left with no option along the gulf but to demand control of the EEZ.

Sincerely,

Chip Blackburn

██████████

██████████, FL 32456

From: [John Watts](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 12:00:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

All

I am asking that as the council makes decisions regarding OUR red snapper resources that it will do the RIGHT THING and reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

John Watts

██████████

██████████, FL 32579

From: [Michael Petit](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 12:20:43 PM

Dear The Comments,

Reject any fishery management policy which assigns recreational quota to a select few private boats for hire.

Give greater control of fishery management to the individual states.

Sincerely,

Michael Petit
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77706

From: [Michael Buehrer](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 12:30:17 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Michael Buehrer

██████████

██████████, TX 77573

From: [Rhonda Mangold](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 12:30:37 PM

Dear The Comments,

Requesting that you reject the policy that will privatize the catching of Red Snapper. Individual states should make the rules for their limits, dates of season, etc. for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Mangold
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78009

From: [Lee Wise](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ - Snapper Management
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 12:43:04 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am contacting you in regards to the proposed program to provide favoritism to a select, small group of headboats by increasing their snapper quota and season periods while the recreational fishermen and the remainder of the headboat industry suffer with tighter restrictions. This is absurd and "unAmerican"! We have dealt with poor, unscientifically based management decisions regarding our gulf fisheries, most specifically snapper and habitat removal, for several years now and this latest program is the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. I am hopeful that you will recognize the ignorance of a policy that distributes resources to the few and destroys access for the many voting constituents. Anything you can do to reject this policy along with the rig removal, aka "habitat destruction" policies already in place, would be much appreciated by millions of saltwater fishermen and potential voters. Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Lee Wise

████████████████████
██████████, TX 77656

From: [David Kitner](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 1:01:46 PM

Dear The Comments,

National Marine Fisheries Service,

Please do not allocate any of the recreational red snapper quota to any group under the guise of a pilot program. Please reject any policies that distribute our resources to a few and destroy access for the rest of the public.

Thank you,
David Kitner

Sincerely,

David Kitner
██████████
██████████, TX 78357

From: [Billie Baker](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 1:02:01 PM

Dear The Comments,

I Totally reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. This is just one more step for this administration that "SAYS" it is for the working folks but delivering to the PAYOFFS!

Sincerely,

Billie Baker
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77020

From: [courtney mitchell](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 1:10:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

This is absurd...I totally disagree with this plan...I can only fish for 27 days according to the feds, but a gov't selected group of boats can fish whenever they want? Let the states manage their own fisheries...I would ask that you reject this new policy and rethink the current federally imposed sanctions on our gulf...

Sincerely,

courtney mitchell

██████████

██████████, LA 70706

From: [Catherine Trepany](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 1:20:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

Acutally, when I originally read about the Headboat IFQ, I thought it was somebody's idea of a bad joke.

When I 1st heard about the headboat IFQ, I thought it was somebody playing a bad joke on me.

Now, that I realize it is for real. I'm still thinking that it is a bad joke.

The people who take head boats to fish, drive down the morning and drive home that night. They may tip the deck hand, but as for supporting the local economy, doesn't happen.

I'm wondering if anyone has calculated the economic impact on the Gulf coastal towns that rely on the marina population to contribute to the local economy buying gas, meals out-bait, ice, things forgotten at home, etc.

We spent last weekend on our boat, ate 3 meals out (3 people for a total of 150.00), bought supplies at the local hardware store to work on the boat -\$68.00 filled the truck 80.00, and stopped at the grocery store \$34.00.

Now, please multiply that by 300 boats in the marina spending the save \$\$\$ 10-16 weeks year conservatively. Then, multiply it by the number of marinas on the Gulf coast. Never mind the \$350.00 monthly dock payment, \$1000.00 to fill the boat each time and the local kids that have spend money by washing boats. The local church that I use when staying on the coast benefits by my donations.

Once again, a small special interest is being catered to instead of the entire picutre being considered.

Sincerely,

Catherine Trepany

████████████████████
██████████, TX 77377

From: [Mr. & Mrs. Warren Singer](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 1:40:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a recreational offshore fishing family, with a tremendous amount of time and money invested in sport fishing; and as conservationists who take science-based regulations seriously; we have always complied with Federal seasons and limits on our fishing outings. However, we feel that the proposed concept of moving a quota of public recreational fishing opportunity into the hands of private, for-profit businesses - headboats - is wrong. It is wrong to privatize a public resource, to take these red snapper from our public use, from our dinner plates, and give them to the bank account of a few businesses. There must be more equitable ways to monitor the landings than this. Please do not do this.

Thank you,
Warren Singer

██████████, LA

Sincerely,

Warren Singer

████████████████████
██████████, LA 70769

From: [John Carlson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 2:20:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources tho the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

John Carlson

████████████████████

████████████████████, TX 78413

From: [Stan Blouin](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 2:20:11 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any / all policies that are skewed toward a select few to share in our fishery resource. For the life of me I cannot understand how this can be justified.

Sincerely,

Stan Blouin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70722

From: [John Laubenthal](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 2:30:27 PM

Dear The Comments,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE Headboat IFQ...

Sincerely,

Avid Fisherman

██████████
██████████, FL 32408

From: [roger Shaw](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 2:30:40 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am highly apposed to allowing a few have controlled of the red snapper season. These fish are for all Louisiana licensee fishermen, please allow our state to control the fish within its boundaries .

Sincerely,

roger Shaw

██████████

██████████, LA 70764

From: [Jimmy Greco](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 3:00:24 PM

Dear The Comments,

I find it appalling that in the wake of a great come back of the Red Snapper population, the Federal Government would stoop to this unbelievable level and grant preferred access to the majority of the Red Snapper population. What the federal government is doing is blocking the recreational fisherman from enjoying this species. It is not the FEW recreational fishermen that are causing a depletion of the snapper population, but rather the commercial boats with their very liberal limits. I am asking the federal government to rethink this "Catch Share" policy. It is impossible for the few recreational snapper fishermen left to have a negative effect on the snapper. Out of 27 days, take out half for unfishable weather, and you leave us, the recreational fisherman that spend millions of dollars on the sport of offshore fishing with a miniscule number of days to fish.

Respectfully submitted.

Jimmy Greco

Sincerely,

Jimmy Greco

████████████████████

██████████, LA 70503

From: [James Duggan](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 3:10:11 PM

Dear The Comments,

Catch shares literally give a portion of a fishery to a business entity for its own use and profit. Federal bureaucrats, among others, believe privatizing a public resource is justified in the pursuit of greater accountability.

Excuse me?? This says that Bureaucrats on a Federal Commission are in favor of turning over the 'recreational catch' on Red Snapper to 'Private Entities' by taking it away from the public 'Recreational Fishermen' in the guise of 'justification of greater accountability'.

Hello, Mr. Fox, here is the door to the hen house!!
Reprehensive cronyism!!!

James W. Duggan

Sincerely,

James Duggan
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 32205

From: [Scott McKean](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 3:10:14 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies & legislation that distribute public resources to the few. Do not allow a select group of businesses or individuals to take resources away from recreational anglers. Please support CCA and its policies to protect the recreational angler.

Sincerely,

Scott McKean
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], AL 36695

From: [donnell fulkes](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 3:20:09 PM

Dear The Comments,

i own a off shore boat that i mainly bought to snapper fish with because snapper is the best eating fish around the rigs out of port aransas tx. i add money to the port aransas area everytime i go fishing there, which is now limited to less than one month a year because the snapper live in the deep water outside the state boundaries. i am in favor of extending the state waters out to include the rigs that are deep enough for snapper. i am not in favor of allowing a select group of people special times and limits while the rest of us don,t have much of chance to take snapper. Fishing for snapper by recreational fisherman should be allowed just as much as any other type of fisherman.

Sincerely,

donnell fulkes
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78217

From: [Charles Moore](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 3:20:13 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am opposed to the privatization of a public resource that belongs to all the citizens of the US, not just a select few selected by someone in Washington, D.C.. Your decision to punish the recreational red snapper angler by limiting the season and the creel limits when red snapper is abundant in the Gulf of Mexico is wrong and should be overturned immediately. This is another example of the Federal Government overstepping its authority. Please reconsider this ill thought out policy and reverse it.

Respectfully,

Sincerely,

Charles Moore, A Louisiana citizen

██████████

██████ ██████, LA 70879

From: [Jeffrey Rabb](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 5:21:10 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject the headboat program.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Rabb

████████████████████

████████████████████, LA 70808

From: [James Carpio](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 5:21:12 PM

Dear The Comments,

As an avid fisherman I reject this proposed pilot program so as to let more citizens enjoy this resource

Sincerely,

James Carpio

██████████

██████████, TX 78552

From: [joey wommack](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 5:30:11 PM

Dear The Comments,

This is an absolute outrage! If this is the way things are headed we will see fisheries, a public resource, traded like consumer commodities!

Sincerely,

Joey Wommack

██████████

██████████, FL 32413

From: [Bob Jones](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 5:40:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Bob Jones

██████████

██████████, TX 77435

From: [James Purgerson, Jr](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboats and other things limiting my children's exposure to Sportsman's Paradise
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 6:05:41 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am writing regarding the proposed NMFS new catch share program that will, in essence, give a select few headboats ownership of recreational red snapper quota to use as their own. I am a recreational fisherman. My wife as well as 7- and 8-year-old daughters are recreational fishermen. As residents of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, we are fortunate to live just a few hours from one of the greatest outdoor playgrounds in the world when it comes to recreational fishing and hunting. As you know we are already dealing with the recent retaliation of Dr. Roy Crabtree and friends at NOAA following my state's refusal to comply with federal snapper laws (as well as several other states which have had longstanding misalignment with federal law). The pilot program adds to the burdens placed on the hundreds of thousands of recreational fishermen. Giving 20 or so boats a portion of our already-strapped recreational quota is another irresponsible policy. It is the latest in a string of baffling decisions by NMFS that serve to ratchet down the public's access to a booming red snapper population.

I urge you to support policies that give greater control of fishery management to the states. I want to expose my children to a sportsman's paradise, but wonder if I can actually be effective until federally-managed fisheries are turned over to state supervision. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jim Purgerson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70806

From: [John Griggs](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 6:30:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

Recreational Fishing is for all NOT for a few select charter fishing boats. Please reject the idea that giving a select few a portion of the Recreational Red Snapper Quota without giving an equal share to all recreational fishermen.

Catch share is wrong and should not be allowed! A public resource should not be given to any group without other users being given a equal share These policies should be rejected.

Sincerely,

John Griggs

██████████
██████████, AL 36535

From: [Jim Hightower](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 7:01:13 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please allow recreational anglers reasonable access to the red snapper population. Current policies are such that we cannot even bottom fish for other species as there are too many red snappers. We do not want to catch a red snapper and then deflate its bladder to allow it to live. We are not sure that the bladder deflation is good for them or that they survive after getting stuck.

The pilot program proposed for head boats is not a fair distribution of public resources. Please reject this.

Also, please get a better count of how strong the snapper population is; I do not think the red snapper is in any kind of danger other than possibly overpopulation.

Sincerely,

Jim Hightower
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 79705

From: [Mark Shurtz](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 7:10:15 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a law abiding and Tax Paying American Citizen I am deeply offended by the proposed pilot program to allow a select group of headboats to take a portion of the allowable recreational harvest for private business purposes. In my opinion recreational means recreational not commercial. I support the sound scientific management of our wildlife and fisheries resources for ALL Americans!

Sincerely,

Mark Shurtz

██████████

██████████, LA 70403

From: [Robert Bicknell](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 7:20:05 PM

Dear The Comments,

I as a long time angler in the gulf of mexico as well as a citizen of the United States Of America am opposed to the "Catch Shares program". I believe the resources of the Gulf Of Mexico as well as other waterways in the State and Federal waters of the United States are the property of the Citizens of the U.S, not the federal government or private Charter Fishing Companies. Though I support reasonable regulations to protect our resources I don't believe turning them over to private enterprises is reasonable. I believe the federal limits are already to strict and the season is already to short. I think the protection of Marine Fisheries would be better served if regulated by the individual states in which they are located in and adjacent to.
Sincerely Robert B Bicknell

Sincerely,

Robert B Bicknell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 76550

From: [Shannon Nickel](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 8:50:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please do not take away from the recreational quotas as we fund many businesses with our outings as the headboats are only interested in increasing their bottom line. The Gov has already taken many lbs of Snapper from the recreational fisherman, where will it end?

Sincerely,

SDN

██████████

██████████, TX 77902

From: [Walter Kirtland](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 9:10:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am absolutely opposed to the NMFS pilot program that would give a portion of the recreational Red Snapper quota and give it to a select group of 20 favored head boats to use as there own, whenever they want while hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers have to deal with an unfair 27 day Red Snapper season

The people at the NMFS appear to have lost their minds.
Please take a look at what they are doing and fix it.

Thank you for your assistance

Sincerely,

Walter Kirtland

████████████████████
████████████████████, LA 70809

From: [William Brewer](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 9:30:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

If NMFS actually grants this bogus application; it will be yet another slap in the face of the public, which the agency is supposed to serve. Yes, the GHC has deleted Steve Tomeny from the list of revealed participants but he is still on their board. The effects of the second year have been deleted from this amended application, but the rest is pretty much the same. This is yet another abuse of EFP's.

EFP's are supposed to be granted for research. This is not about research but rather about granting exclusive use of a public resource to a few for profit, at the expense of many.

As we go through the re-authorization process, the EFP procedure needs to be changed so that exemptions are granted only for true research.

Sincerely,

Chester Brewer

████████████████████

████████████████████, FL 33408

From: [Bobby Johnson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 15, 2013 11:10:11 PM

Dear The Comments,

as a private boater please let us have some of the quota for red snapper I believe as a fish in public waters they should not be different rules for some and not for others I fish and follow the rules then I see boats come in with lots of snapper and they say they have a commercial lis so the get different quotas than private boats
thanks

Sincerely,

Bobby Johnson

██████████
██████████, TX 78253

From: [Gene Schwall](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 12:01:20 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am a private citizen and fully disagree with the consideration to take a portion of the recreational red snapper quota and allow that to be given to a group of 20 boats or so. Catch shares does not consider the multitude of private fisherman who live for these upcoming months and their chance to enjoy a sport they love. I do not feel represented as a taxpayer or as a conservationist when private citizen fishing rights are given to businesses.

Sincerely,

Gene Schwall

████████████████████

██████, TX 77450

From: [REDACTED]
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 1:46:57 AM

First Name: Bob
Last Name: Harbison
Street Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED]
State: Florida
Zip Code: 33624
Email Address: [REDACTED]
: Dear NOAA:

New idea for red snapper

A group of head boat captains, backed by the Charter Boat Fisherman's Association (CFA), have come up with a 'New idea for red snapper!' A plan to allow them to fish for red snapper all year long. It appears that head boats who do not support EDF's catch share program, such as the boats of one of the oldest most respected in the industry, Hubbard's Marina, will be left out of this plan.

Gulf Council meeting, Gulf Port Mississippi, direct from the desk of Captain Buddy Bradham, MotherOcean Charters:

"I wish I had some good news but we need to help stop a plan that is going to hurt Hubbard's in the long term. A group of headboat capt's that belong to the Charterboat Fisherman's Assoc. came up with a plan to get a permit from the NMFS to be able to fish anytime of the year for red snapper. Capt. Mark was invited to the planning meeting and told them that the plan sounded a lot like catch shares that he is against but make sure his boats was included. Capt Mark's boats were left out of the plan. The pilot plan called for 20 boats to take part in it and only 9 are signed up so why was Hubbard's left out. I learned today from Gulf Council member Pam Dana that a headboat in Destin was treated the same as Capt.Mark. If this plan goes forward it may be used to set the number of catch shares a headboat gets so Capt mark may get less. This was passed in the Gulf Council last August and slipped by us. Now all we can do is make comments to the NMFS and hope Crabtree will not sign off on it." Captain Buddy Bradham

The American red snapper belong to the American people. The CFA backed, 'New idea for red snapper' rewards the few at the expense of the many. Bob Harbison

From: [Mr. & Mrs. Charles Crain](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 5:40:11 AM

Dear The Comments,

I implore you do the right thing and protect the rights of many in regard to red snapper limits. Do not let head-boats enjoy unfair limits at the expense of recreational anglers. Fishing resources belong to the people first then private or public business. Dont sell your souls. Iam addressing this to every member of the U.S. congress and senate.

Sincerely,

Charles Crain

██████████

██████████, TX 77627

From: [John Ivey](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 6:50:21 AM

Dear The Comments,

I absolutely reject this ridiculous notion to allow select charter boats the ability to catch red snapper while rec anglers are left out. The current snapper regulations are a travesty, and not backed by any realistic scientific data. Snapper population is incredible in NE Fl. We need to go back to a normal season, and go to 1 fish per person.

Sincerely,

John Ivey

██████████

██████████, FL 32257

From: [Tom Anderson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 8:10:19 AM

Dear The Comments,

i don't know or pretend to understand the position taken by our government officials at times. The issue of red snapper fishing, as reported, appears to suddenly favor a few interests and eliminate or drastically reduce the public's access to this great resource. I would encourage you to vote against such a rule and seriously question the motives of those that are in favor of it. We have heard for years that this fish is endangered, etc. but now it has substantially recovered. We have paid increased fishing license fees to support restocking the fish for years and how we are told that someone wants to give a few boats the right to fish for the snappers and leave us with less than a month to fish. There is something seriously wrong with this idea! I would appreciate your consideration of this issue and support to make fishing fun again. It's hardly worth the time and expense to fish for red snapper when you can only possess 2. Thank you.

Tom Anderson

Sincerely,

Tom Anderson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77377

From: [Chris Pratka](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 8:40:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

No Fish Grab! No Catch Shares! No Privatization of a public resource! No more guessing what the bio mass is! Do a credible stock assesement! The states can do a better job than the overweight federal beaurocracy that exists now. Roy you are NOT doing the right thing for the fishery or the fishing public. Follow the MSA and quit making up your own rules as you go. I am just one of many former offshore fisherman. In 2005 i sold my boat and no longer fish offshore as a direct result of the draconian measure taken in this fishery. Shame of you NMFS for the despicable way you have harmed the fishery and the fishing community!

Sincerely,

Chris Pratka

████████████████████
██████████, TX 77584

From: [josh Leavell](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 9:00:15 AM

Dear The Comments,

We do not want catch share. We will not accept catch share. The red snapper belong to everyone and were not put on this earth for a select few to make money off of. Quit trying to exploit the future of fishing for the all mighty dollar. Recreational fishermen spends millions of dollars every year to catch the few allowable snapper limits. The regs are already ridiculous and are the reason why I have not bought a bigger boat. This is becoming quite a joke.

Sincerely,

josh Leavell

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], TX 77573

From: [Brett Donnahoe](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 9:23:43 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few. You only take the general public's access away. The shrimpers are the problem. Address the issue! Look at the bycatch they create! You are continuing to destroy the fishery by not controlling the shrimpers.

Sincerely,

Brett Donnahoe

██████████
██████████, TX 77386

From: [Tracey Dean](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 9:40:07 AM

Dear The Comments,

RED SNAPPER - While states, other headboat businesses, and hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers deal with a 27-day red snapper season, a proposed pilot program will take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of about 20 boats to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want. DO NOT allow the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to privatize public resources under the guise of management. PLEASE reject any scheme to minimize recreational access to our marine resources. Management of these resources should be transferred to the States. The amount of business generated by recreational fishermen is astounding. It creates thousands of jobs and provides for better management of the resource.

Sincerely,

Tracey Dean

██████████ ██████████

██████████, TX 78640

From: [michael kresbach](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 9:50:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

please do not allow the headboat policy to go into affect. unfair and unamerican

Sincerely,

m. kresbach

████████████████████

██████████, FL 32346

From: [Pete Harmon](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 10:50:12 AM

Dear The Comments,

I request that you reject the headboat concept, and any other policies that distribute resources to the select few.

Pete Harmon

Sincerely,

Pete Harmon

████████████████████

██████████, LA 70070

From: [Clay Meis](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 11:10:08 AM

Dear The Comments,

Reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many!

Sincerely,

Clay Meis

████████████████████

██████, TX 76008

From: [Thomas Ward](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 11:10:11 AM

Dear The Comments,

I reject your recommendations for headboat businessnes. NMFS needs to quick taking from the recreational angler!

Sincerely,

Thomas Ward
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77485

From: [Monte Shugart](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 11:10:14 AM

Dear The Comments,

this new ruling is insane, discriminatory and unjust.

Sincerely,

Monte Shugart

██████████
██████████, TX 78362

From: [Jeffrey Warner](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 12:00:10 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any and all policies regarding distribution of resources with the ARS. You are once again redistributing public resources to a select few.

Jeffrey S Warner.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S Warner

██████████

██████████, FL 33706

From: [Kevin Kipina](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 12:30:09 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am requesting that my federal government reject the proposed catch shares policy that unfairly sets aside a portion of the US fishery, that belongs to it's citizens, for a small select group of headboats to use for their own use and profit. This is especially disconcerting considering the amount of money that the general fishing public pours into the resource(s).

This proposal, and the manner by which it is being introduced, has the smell of "back door" politics. If this proposal was a good idea that benefitted the majority, there would be no need to quietly sneak it through.

Instead, let's allow the states to manage the fisheries on a state/regional level. The process will be much more efficient than the federal government could ever muster. It will be more effective since the states are better in tune with their resources and have the ability to adjust quickly if needed.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kipina

██████████
██████████, TX 77571

From: [Grey Cane](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Re: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 12:37:59 PM

I have learned more about this Headboat catch data program. This is a Wolf is Sheeps clothing.
I am opposed.

Grey Cane

On Tue, Apr 2, 2013 at 10:19 AM, Grey Cane <[\[REDACTED\]](#)> wrote:
If this program will help gather more data on the population of Red Snapper in the Gulf of Mexico then I say go for it.
I am curious about using Headboat catch data only. What not also spread it around some and also collect data from some for hire charter boats and maybe even a select few recreational fishermen too?

Please take a hard look at the Red Snapper population in the Gulf. I fished in the Gulf, out of Orange Beach, on Friday March 29, we had to work hard to find spots that were not covered up with snapper. We fished out to 40 miles from shore, the Snapper are everywhere.

Thank you for your hard work to protect our resources.

Grey Cane

--
P. Grey Cane, III

[\[REDACTED\]](#)
[\[REDACTED\]](#)

--
P. Grey Cane, III

[\[REDACTED\]](#) [\[REDACTED\]](#)

[\[REDACTED\]](#) [\[REDACTED\]](#) [\[REDACTED\]](#)

[\[REDACTED\]](#) [\[REDACTED\]](#)
Mobile, Al 36606

[\[REDACTED\]](#) - [\[REDACTED\]](#) - [\[REDACTED\]](#)
[\[REDACTED\]](#) - [\[REDACTED\]](#) - [\[REDACTED\]](#)
[\[REDACTED\]](#) - [\[REDACTED\]](#) - [\[REDACTED\]](#)
[\[REDACTED\]](#)

From: [tommy stewart](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 12:40:12 PM

Dear The Comments,

I would like to ask the federal government to please reject the policies that distribute resources to the few and detroy the many

Sincerely,

tommy stewart

██████████
██████████, TX 77025

From: [Jonathan Primeaux](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 1:05:45 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies the distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the general public.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Primeaux

██████████

██████████, LA 70605

From: [Mark Hughes](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 1:20:13 PM

Dear The Comments,

Due to poor data and poor decision making by NOAA and NMFS, we can no longer fish for red snapper when their stocks are as prolific as ever. In this year's 27 day Gulf red snapper season, do not let NMFS take a portion of the meager recreational quota and give it to a select group of about 20 boats to use as their own, whenever they want, however they want.

That just makes the insanity of the current closure and short season even more insane.

While you are at it, insist they develop a sampling process that will reliably produce results that are representative of the people that use the fishery, all of them and of all the fish (red snapper in this case) that exist in the fishery such as those that live around oil rigs and artificial reefs.

Sincerely,

Mark Hughes

██████████ ██████████

██████████, FL 32084

From: [Warren Caro](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 2:40:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many. I have worked and fished in the gulf for over 20 years. I have seen videos from ROV's and from divers that show Red Snapper are abundant. Please pass laws from factual data and not for political reasons!

Sincerely,

Warren Caro

████████████████████

██████████, LA 70734

From: [James Stock](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 5:20:21 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am opposed to catch shares within the recreational red snapper fishery.

Sincerely,

James Stock
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77568

From: [Gary Parsons](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 5:30:10 PM

Dear The Comments,

NMFS cannot conduct a valid pilot study using participants that have already decided on the preferred outcome. At the very least, use sound statistical principles i.e. select volunteers at random, state the objectives in quantitative terms, decide what level of difference is significant etc.

We want our NMFS to be fair and professional and of course insure the future of our fishery.

Sincerely,

Gary H Parsons
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 32578

From: [John Dusek](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 9:00:11 PM

Dear The Comments,

I would ask the federal government to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.
Unacceptable use of power and will have a negative impact to recreational anglers and the multiple businesses that serve these anglers!

Sincerely,

John Dusek

██████████
██████████, TX 78023

From: [Joseph Pociask](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 10:10:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject the "catch shares concept/." It smacks of favoritism for a small group who are trying to supercede the rights of many.

Sincerely,

Joseph Pociask

████████████████████

████████ ██████████, LA 70817

From: [Matthew Blackshear, Esq.](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 10:20:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

Reject the pilot program.

Sincerely,

Matthew Blackshear Esq.

██████████

██████████, FL 33615

From: [James Sumrall](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 8:30:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

Whats fair for one should be fair for everyone, no one should be allowed to have special treatment.

Sincerely,

James Sumrall
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 33610

From: [Dan Worland](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 8:50:10 AM

Dear The Comments,

This is a bad idea but if you must go thru with this devisive program, add all recreational fisherman with a permit such as a Duck Stamp for hunting ducks. Let all recreational fishermen have their share with the permit to use anytime they want.

Sincerely,

Dan worland
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], MS 39560

From: [Mark Larsen](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 8:50:12 AM

Dear The Comments,

I can not believe you are even thinking of doing this . To me it sounds like a new way to line your pockets .

To give this to a select few, that is outrageous . This is a country that is for the people NOT the select few . All so u can see who gives u the most money for your campaign . Stop the bureaucratic BS and get back to working for the People not yourself . I cant see how u get this all twisted it is so simple . Work for the ppl not the select few . That is what u are put in office for .

Sincerely,

Mark Larsen

██████████

██████████, FL 32839

From: [Stephen Herrmann](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 9:00:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please don't allow headboats to take part of the recreational quota for red snapper from recreational fishermen. The red snapper season and limit has decreased dramatically over the last 10 years. Since NFMS continuously limits recreational ability to catch red snapper why would they allow it easier for commercial fisherman? I wish someone would explain to recreational fishermen how more then 10 years of continuous limitation of recreational snapper fishing has not led to a better stock of red snapper. If this is not helping what is the REAL pro

Sincerely,

Stephen Herrmann
██████████
██████████, TX 77006

From: [Steve Bolles](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 9:30:08 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please allow all fisherman to enjoy the Red Snapper resources as managed by a open season, amount taken and size limits. Granting all anglers the same playing field is the only solution.

Thanks

Capt. Bolles

Sincerely,

Steve Bolles

██████████

██████████, FL 32317

From: [Cindy Mercurio](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 10:20:43 AM

Dear The Comments,

I am a native Floridian. Boating and fishing are not only a way of life for us but also a huge part of Florida's economy. Please reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Cindy Mercurio

██████████
██████████, FL 34242

From: [Charles Holt](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 11:00:28 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject the headboat IFQ since it takes a portion of the catch and turns into a long term asset for a few people. The fish belong to all of us and over the years the number people fishing in private boats and charter or headboats varies. If you give individual boats a permanent share you limit competition and create unfair inequities in allocation. Please resist the pressure being put upon you by those who plan to reap the long term profit from our fisheries. Catch shares are a loser except for those who have them. You have much better ways to regulate fisheries.

Sincerely,

Charles Holt
██████████
██████████, FL 32068

From: [Alvis Jackson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 12:44:33 PM

Dear The Comments,

I reject the feds attempt to distribute resources toe few and destroy access for the rest of us sport fisherman.

It seems the feds never get it right. They just take the lobby money and run.

Sincerely,

Alvis Jackson

██████████
██████████, TX 79566

From: [Frank Chase](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 6:21:59 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am a Mississippi resident who moors his boat in Point Clear, AL. I am a recreational fisherman who takes his family and friends fishing in the Gulf of Mexico and red snapper are a favorite catch. In the waters I fish there are more red snapper than I have ever seen so I question the way that the catch limits and seasons are set, in general.

I am also concerned that as catch limits and seasons are set they will be unequally applied to recreational fisherman and charter boats (headboats). I urge you NOT to give an advantage to a small number of charter boats when recreational fisherman, in the aggregate, spend a tremendous amount of money each year on fishing in the Gulf.

Sincerely,

Frank Chase
██████████
██████████, MS 39047

From: [Larry Lambertz](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 10:20:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

This plan to carve off part of the Red Snapper catch for the exclusive use and profit of the headboat industry makes no sense. Every plan the federal government proposes seems to have the effect of taking snapper catch from recreational fishermen and transferring it to the commercial businesses. Recreational fishermen put much more money into the local economies of the gulf states than do the commercials. If federal gov. can't do any better than this, get out of management and turn it over to the gulf states.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Larry Lambertz
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 77008

From: [Brian Sasaki-Scanlon](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 10:50:28 PM

Dear The Comments,

I cannot express in words how strongly I am against the proposed exempted fishing permit for select headboats. This is another attempt to reinvigorate the sector separation/catch share push by a select few charter/for hire operations and ENGOs. As recreational fisherman, a former full time charter captain and a stakeholder in the resource, let me reiterate that I oppose any and all privatization of the recreational TAC including this newest attempt.

Sincerely,

Capt. Brian Sasaki-Scanlon

██████████

██████████, FL 32082

From: [ling1947](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Cc: ling1947.bk1@gmail.com
Subject: "Headboat IFQ"
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2013 11:13:59 AM
Importance: High

To whom it may concern:

I am in total disbelief that you would even consider this other than it appears that you are more concerned about the commercial headboats and for-hire than you are about either the fishery or the regular recreational fisherman.

In my opinion this is just another attempt by the Government to eliminate the rights of the regular recreational fishermen and limit fishing to a select group of people based on \$\$\$ rather than the fishery itself. Although it is not specifically spelled out in the bulletin, it is obvious that you intend to take the Cooperative participant catch away from the recreational limit and thereby limit our season/catch even more.

In your proposed rule, NOAA-NMFS-2013-0055, you proposed to increase the commercial and recreational quotas in the Gulf. This proposed rule, like this one, appears to be based on \$\$\$ versus sustaining the actual fisheries. To me, it makes more sense to close the specific species season based on when they spawn and not on dollars. This would give the fish a "voice" that they obviously don't have now.

As of this date and numerous meetings none of the FWC "Experts" have been able to explain how you determine the actual recreational catch. I keep getting told that they do dockside sampling and phone sampling. It is amazing that I have never been sampled, either at the dock or by phone since I got back to Florida in 1993 and fish all the time. I am not the only one either.

I say "ABSOLUTELY NO" to this proposed rule.

B. K. Stoesser
7233 Kingfisher Cove
Navarre, Florida 32566

From: [Matthew Dillahunty](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2013 9:00:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

Please stop any and all attempts to push any form or "catch shares," or "sector separation," or whatever you are calling it now, through on the recreational sector. I really don't care if this is a "pilot" program or not, it is unnecessary and unwanted by the vast majority of recreational anglers.

Sincerely,

Matthew Dillahunty

████████████████████

████████████████████, FL 33716

From: [Paul Alagna](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2013 9:30:25 PM

Dear The Comments,

Are you kidding me??? The GOM council must be being bribed to even consider such an unfair moronic plan. I am a rec fisherman with over 50 grand spent on boat and gear so my family can enjoy OUR waters and every year you idiots keep limiting the family fishermans access while turning it over to commercial interests. I am fed up with the ever shortened seasons and limits while commies continue to get millions of pounds of fish. You guys need to wake up and start serving the majority, the family fisherman and quit being pawns for the commercial interests.

Sincerely,

Paul Alagna...a fed up rec fisherman...

██████████
██████████, FL 34683

From: [Darrell Walker](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 19, 2013 10:40:10 AM

Dear The Comments,

I strongly oppose the Red Snapper management plan that utilizes the concept of "catch shares". This plan will greatly reduce the number of days that recreational fisherman are allowed access to the public resource of Red Snapper fishing. As an avid diver and fisherman, I never used a head boat to go into the Gulf of Mexico to fish. I do however use my own boat to go offshore with my friend/family to fish and dive. This pumps money into our local economy by my purchase of our boat, fuel, bait, food, ice, dive equipment, etc. While it important to protect and conserve the Red Snapper fishery for future generations, it is also important to maintain a fair balance in how this resource is accessed.

Sincerely,

Concerned scuba diver

██████████
██████████, LA 70606

From: [Jonathan Howell](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 20, 2013 9:10:08 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please reject any policies that take away resources from recreational fisherman and distribute it to a select few.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Howell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA 70503

From: [Eric Fosbender](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 20, 2013 12:50:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

Given the reduction in recreational access to the Gulf red snapper stocks, it seems to be pouring salt on the open wounds of recreational red snapper anglers to consider further reduction of their overall quota by this proposed scheme. With an already paltry 27 calendar days estimated (covering 6 weekend days, which may or may not be fish-able weather), a further reduction of access based on more entitlement is just absurd.

Sincerely,

Best Regards, Eric Fosbender

██████████

██████████, FL 33702

From: [Erica Marks](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 20, 2013 4:20:09 PM

Dear The Comments,

I ask the federal government to reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Sincerely,

Erica Marks

██████████ ██████████
██████████, TX 75149

From: [Nikki Rice](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 21, 2013 5:40:06 AM

Dear The Comments,

I reject policies that distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many

Sincerely,

Nikki Rice

██████████ ██████████
██████████, TX 75149

From: [Shawn Johnson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Sunday, April 21, 2013 4:00:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

I oppose and request the federal government to reject any policy that would distribute resources to the few and destroy access for the many.

Respectfully,
Shawn Johnson

Sincerely,

Shawn Johnson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], TX 78248

From: [Hugh Mood](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 22, 2013 10:51:05 AM

Dear The Comments,

Please do NOT proceed with your plan to enrich a select group of head boat operators at the expense of all other anglers. That smells of a political payoff to me.

Sincerely,

A very concerned outdoorsman

██████████
██████████, TX 78669

From: [Keith Johnson](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 22, 2013 12:30:08 PM

Dear The Comments,

This is a terrible idea. It gives preferential treatment to a small group of folks and is punitive to the group of people who have the largest economic impact on the coastal economy.

Moreover, it is simply unfair to the public.

Keith Johnson

Sincerely,

Keith Johnson

██████████ ██████████ ██████████

██████████, TX 77531

From: [Kathy Eicke](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 22, 2013 10:40:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

Assigning red snapper quota to headboats is an abomination of the duties of the Gulf Council and should not be allowed to proceed. There are so many issues related to this program that a book could be written - with no points rationally supporting what is contemplated. Kill it and kill it now. The Gulf Council needs to simplify the processes it follows with public input but not by putting a senseless program before the public. The support for this program has to be minimal and limited to those environmentalists who seem to think this is the way to control that sector they detest - recreational anglers - while favoring a small segment of the total users who are sustained by a resource they have less right to than recreational anglers (who are the predominance of the public sector).

Sincerely,

Kathy Eicke

████████████████████

████████████████████, MS 39564

From: [Christopher LeCoq](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 1:50:14 PM

Dear The Comments,

please reject the pilot program to distribute recreational quota of red snapper

Sincerely,

Christopher LeCoq

██████████

██████████, LA 70896

From: [Chris Keefer](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 8:00:06 PM

Dear The Comments,

As a avid angler and captain of a 6pk boat. This whole idea of giving any public property to another by, government control is nothing more than (communism). We as american citizens should all have the same rights! Not by your boat size or how much money you make. If the fishery can sustain the fishing pressure from a headboat or commerical fleet. How is it logical to not allow a normal weekend fisherman to go out and catch (on there own Boat) a legal limit of a fish the government said was overfished. Who was doing the overfishing in the first place? How many rec anglers fish 7 days a week? So with this theory I sell my \$80,000 boat, sell my tackle, might as well sell the truck also. Just so I can go catch a fish that is not there according to the government studies. This whole idea is insane!

Sincerely,

Chris Keefer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 32766

From: [E Duouy](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: headboat efp
Date: Thursday, April 25, 2013 3:33:07 PM

To whom, I wanted to add my opinion on the EFP for headboats and have a few statements. First would be why aren't there any headboats from Louisiana included in the cooperative? Second is that all who use the resource should have the deduction from 2014, 2015, catch total, not just the recreational sector. If this is a study for all. And finally a lot of time is being wasted studying, the whole while all the rigs are being removed that the reef fish have been using. It won't be long before we have 10 rigs in the entire gulf and 100 boats tied to them to fish. Sincerely=

From: [mike.nugent](mailto:mike.nugent@noaa.gov)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: headboat ifq
Date: Friday, April 26, 2013 9:04:50 AM

The membership of the Port Aransas Boatmen Assoc. wants you to know we strongly oppose the proposed "headboat ifq / exempted fishing permit " pilot program . When the Gulf Council voted to keep this abomination alive in Corpus Christi last year it was wrong and it is certainly no more right today than it was then . The economist for the Gulf Council told us as members of the LAPP Advisory Panel (ad hoc) a couple of years ago that the two most important components of a pilot program is that it NOT be voluntary because of the built in bias that accompanies a program made up of people that want to participate rather than a cross section of the target group. The second important component, again, according to the Gulf Council is to have geographic distribution . So what NMFS is recommending accepting as a pilot program for headboat IFQ s is voluntary and has ONE participant from the entire state of Texas while Alabama and Florida has headboat owners with more than one of their boats participating in the program . Geographical balance indeed ! This proposed pilot is nothing more than another example of the hypocrisy and lack of ethics that makes up NMFS when it comes to the pursuit of catch shares and your desire to force them onto people that don't want them . Apparently , every time EDF cracks their catch share whip, the folks at NMFS just jump and ask "how high ? " This proposed program is poorly conceived, poorly designed and is nothing more than an attempt to introduce catch shares into the Gulf of Mexico charter for hire industry while providing a financial windfall to some of their good " catch share soldiers " . It needs to be terminated and shown to be the sham that it is . Mike Nugent Fisheries Rep. Port Aransas Boatmen Assoc.

From: [Scott Willis](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, April 26, 2013 5:13:21 PM

Dear The Comments,

Thats crazy. Why should a commercial business have more of a advantage then everyone else.

Millions of dollars are put into the coastal economies, and the management and conservation of the resource by recreational anglers. Yet the fed gov feels it is fair to show favoritism to a few at the cost of many.

We are planning to go to Southern Florida for over 1 week in the next few months and will be fishing. We will be spending a large amount of money on travel to accommodations food, etc. All this will be put into the economy because of the fishery in Southern FL. (we did two trips last year)

Thats not right I do not see any justification.

Sincerely,

Scott Willis

██████████
██████████, NC 28555

From: [Jack Ferrera](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov; info@gulfcouncil.org
Subject: ^ Headboat IFQ
Date: Saturday, April 27, 2013 11:20:16 AM

I would like it to be known that I am against the EDF requests for support of the proposed headboat exempted fishing permit.

To further divide the recreational fishing community while still unable to establish any realistic bag/ season limits, etc is just another attempt to "bamboozle" anglers into a "SECTOR SEPARATION" scheme.

To allocate ANY portion of the recreational quota to ANY "special" (read as "permitted") segment of stakeholders has the feel of a "money grab", regardless of name placed on it.

Creating a permit process does not change one undeniable fact!

What fisheries managers, for the most part, fail to realize when pondering these decisions, is that fish are a PUBLIC RESOURCE, meant to be used in a fair and equitable manner by any/ all interested parties.

Respectfully submitted

Capt. Jack Ferrera

From: [ShIPLEY HOY](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 29, 2013 6:50:04 AM

Dear The Comments,

This concept is very simple. The "people" own the red snapper fishery. If the red snapper fishery is so pressured that even the "people"(who have dumped billions into the economy) can't take some of there own fish, then no select few should ever have access. No take for ANY species that cant be recreational angler harvested. This proposal is the definition of a monopoly.

ShIPLEY A. HOY (Lee County Native)
[REDACTED], FL

Sincerely,

ShIPLEY HOY
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 33931

From: [Cletus Junius](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 29, 2013 7:10:07 PM

Dear The Comments,

Giving the commercial fisherman the right to own fishing rights that are not given to the general public is WRONG! What does the commercial fisherman give back to the Gulf? The answer is... he rapes and gets paid for it. If anyone should be limited, it should be the commercial fisherman.

Sincerely,

Cletus Junius

■■■■■■■■■■
■■■■■■■■■■, LA 70124

From: [Janis Tankersley](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Cc: info@gulfcouncil.org
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 29, 2013 10:30:41 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am definitely against the Headboat IFQ's and sector separation. I am also against the IFQ used in charter fishing. I have been in this business for 30 years and have to say I now know how the American Indian felt.

Sincerely,

Captain Danny Tankersley
Lady J Charter (Owner)

From: [jerry_andrews](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Head boat IFQ
Date: Monday, April 29, 2013 10:42:27 PM
Attachments: [Head Boat IFQ.docx](#)

April 26 2013

Subject: Head boat IFQ

To Whom It May Concern:

I have two major concerns about this head boat IFQ program that is on the table.

First, I have been in the fishing business (carrying passengers for hire) for 35 years. For the past 30 years I have held a 49 passenger federal reef fish permit that states on the permit, charter boat/head boat. There is no distinguishing factor on the permit that states one or the other. There is a passenger limit stated that is 49 passengers. Therefore, I contacted the NMFS to see if I would qualify for this proposed exempted head boat permit. I was told NO! You have not participated in the head boat logbook program. To my knowledge, I don't recall ever being asked to participate in such a program. But I do have a federal reef fish permit for both the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic and it states 49 passengers and is a head boat/ charter boat permit.

Second, I really don't see a need to give a hand full of so-called privileged head boats an exempted permit to fish for Red Snapper. In my opinion, if you can't book you vessel during June and July regardless of what you can catch, YOU NEED TO FIND ANOTHER OCCUPATION! Why are we harvesting a species during the time they are full of eggs anyway, when we are trying to increase the population.

An economic study of an exempted permit for a select few is the most ignorant thing I have ever heard of. It will do nothing but create animosity and hardships between user groups that is not necessary to determine the economics of an open or closed fishery. It's not rocket science, simply go back five or six years and look at the number of trips a vessel ran when we had a 160-day Red Snapper season. Check his or her bank deposits, fuel receipts, bait receipts and crew payment records. This will give you a good idea of then and now.

I can tell you this, if I was given an exempted or open permit, I could get on the phone and be booked 365 days a year. All I have to do is start calling my old customers and advertising that, yes we can catch Red Snapper. Is this really a true economic study? I guess in today's government and the land of grants, is this really a true economic study. I think you are creating a handful of "Golden Head Boats."

Sincerely,

Jerry Andrews

████████████████████, █████
████████████████████
████████████████████, FL 32563
████ - █████ - █████

From: [David Flotte](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2013 11:20:36 AM

Dear The Comments,

The recreational fisherman has been ignored in Louisiana. We spent loads of money in commerce, but minimal money to lobby special interests. The Snapper fishery is very strong, with some offshore platforms holding so many snapper that other species are excluded. You cannot catch and keep enough fish to cover your fuel, much less bait, fuel, tackle, or boat expense only because a national standard is imposed improperly on Louisiana. We are against exhausting the limited quota with head boats dedicated to earmarks. It is not fair. The Oil rigs that are considered unsightly are the best habitat for growing big, healthy snapper but the feds insist on destroying the structures for no good reason except to flex political power. The science shows our resource management in Louisiana is 100 times more effective than the the other states, but the USA's answer is flex political power to keep Louisianaians from harvesting the resources that we make sacrifices to establish. WE ARE SICK OF THE FEDERAL POWER GRAB FOR POLITICAL PUROSES such as cutting off red snapper season because Louisiana excises jurisdiction for Snapper landing permits within three maritime leagues (10.2 miles). We are against further depriving recreational fisherman by giving Washington or NOAA the power to exhaust quotas by headboat earmarks.

Sincerely,

David F.

██████████
██████████, LA 70122

From: [Bob Zales 2](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: "" Headboat IFQ""
Date: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 7:20:36 PM
Attachments: [pcba efp oppose 5-1-13.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Please find attached the comments from the Panama City Boatmen Association. Thanks,

Bob

Capt. Bob Zales, II

██████████
██████████ : ██████████
██████████ - ██████████

*"For those who believe, no proof is necessary.
For those who don't believe, no proof is possible."*

Stuart Chase

PANAMA CITY BOATMEN ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 4151
Panama City, Florida 32401

May 1, 2013

Steve Branstetter
SERO NMFS
263 13th Ave. South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

By Email: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov

Re: Proposed Gulf of Mexico Exempted Fishing Permit

Dear Mr. Branstetter:

As President of the PCBA I wish to provide the following comments regarding the above. PCBA spoke against this proposed EFP at the April 2012 Council meeting and wish to add those comments as per the April Council verbatim minutes.

We oppose this EFP for many reasons listed below. Our first objection is based on the Gulf Council vote by 7 for and 6 against to support this proposal when first presented to the Gulf Council at their April, 2012 meeting. While there was no roll call vote, our member representatives were in attendance and identified and counted the hands raised for voting for and against. Dr. Crabtree, RA of the NMFS Southeast Region and Representative for the Secretary of Commerce routinely abstains from votes on issues where the SOC/NMFS is a major player. This has been especially true on issues when the SOC/NMFS is viewed as party to the issue. Had Dr. Crabtree abstained the Council vote would have been 6 for 6 against with 1 abstention so the motion would have failed due to a tie vote. By voting for the Council motion it is clear that the NMFS continues to push for catch shares in and sector separation of the recreational sector. Dr. Crabtree has repeatedly stated that the NMFS does not promote catch shares and sector separation. His voting record and actions prove otherwise.

It is extremely clear that Dr. Crabtree and the NMFS have pushed for and created catch share programs that provide economic advantages to a hand full of fishermen at the expense of the majority of the fishing fleets. This Gulf Headboat EFP request is nothing more than a social and economic experiment that will prove that the 8 owners of the 13 selected headboats will be the premiere recreational For-Hire fishing operations in the Gulf and the other 57 headboats, 1300 federally permitted charter boats, and over 2500 state licensed charter boats will lose substantial business and many will go out of business. Anytime you have a privileged recreational For-Hire fishing vessel docked rail to rail with other non-privileged recreational For-Hire fishing vessels, customers will select the vessel where they can harvest fish rather than ones where they cannot. We do not need a 2 year experiment to prove this. We have already seen the increase in state licensed vessels since they routinely are able to fish state waters when the EEZ is closed.

According to the minutes of the Council April 2012 meeting, Dr. Ponwith, Director of the NOAA Southeast Science Center is quoted "Again, what I'm eager to do is see the full -- **I've seen kind of this Frankenstein patchwork** of what's being proposed." Dr. Crabtree is quoted with several comments, "I

don't think there's any way to do it other than have the vessels that choose to participate to volunteer to do it and so while that might not be perfect from a science standpoint." He further states, "... so the people who participate in it feel like there are economic benefits to them for coming into it and so I think some of this is just going to hinge on the experience of the vessels that come out of it and that sort of thing. **That's a concern, Doug.**" He also stated, "Now, do you want to have a couple of extra vessels in it or not, I think that could be worked out, but because this is a pilot study, it's inherent that it's going to just be a small subsample of the fleet to do it."

Dr. Pam Dana, Recreational Representative from Florida commented, "One of the headboat operators, Captain Kelly Windes, noted that, based after he read the application, that he would be interested in participating with his two boats, if implemented, but he would prefer that the seven or so true headboats in town be treated equally and not have one boat at the same marina with an advantage over others." She also stated, "We heard testimony and Pam Anderson spoke to the effect of having, and I think Mark Kelley did as well, about having a headboat next to another headboat or a charter boat and having different treatment."

Mr. Shepherd Grimes, NOAA Counsel, commented, "Everyone is saying it's putting them at a competitive advantage and that, to me, doesn't necessarily seem to be the case." While Mr. Grimes is certainly free to make this statement, he grew up in Panama City, Florida in a family where fishery management was very present and during the time when headboats and charter boats were plentiful and all docked rail to rail as they are today. He, as well as anyone involved in fisheries, should certainly be aware that when one vessel has a clear competitive advantage over another that vessel will always do more business than those less advantaged. By granting special fishing privileges with the proposed EFP to a select few headboat owners the NMFS will immediately create special competitive advantages for those owners over the rest of the fleet in the Gulf. Why would a customer pay to fish on a recreational For-Hire vessel that cannot keep species that are closed when the vessel next to it can? This is clearly not rocket science.

Who is the headboat coop? We have seen 8 names with one selected as manager. Where is this coop registered, is it a LLC, Nonprofit, For-profit, and is it incorporated or simply a group of 8 individuals who provide no legal responsibility or liability against any possible damage to the resource or other competing businesses? Who makes the decision if a vessel owner can participate or not? When BIAS is discussed, has any BIAS by any of the 8 against any other vessel owner been considered in the selection process as there are certainly some vessels owners who do not like others, for a variety of reasons. What entity or have all 8 owners provided any legal documentation of who is responsible for collecting and disseminating any data? Who will answer to the NMFS when fish are assigned and who will make the determination of how many fish each vessel receives and how are those fish accounted for? Who is responsible to remove a vessel from the EFP should a violation occur? Does the SOC/NMFS simply provide quota to any group of fishermen based on an EFP request while taking that quota from other fishermen who have historically fished that quota?

The sponsor is the Charter Fishermen's Association, an Environmental Defense Fund funded recreational For-Hire fishing association recently formed to propose and advance catch shares and sector separation in the Gulf of Mexico as well as other regions. The EDF economist Daniel Willard has recently submitted requests to many economists to sign on to a letter he provided supporting this EFP. It is clear in his letter that this EFP has nothing to do with gathering needed data on the fishery resources but is an attempt to show the economic gain the select 8 owners will receive and the competitive advantage they will gain over their competitors over the next 2 years. Fortunately, many of those economist contacted have refused to sign on because they understand the harm that will be done to the vessel owners not selected as well as other recreational For-Hire fishing vessel owners located in the same docking facility. An EFP should be used to gather data on the fishery resources, not for economic research. This is especially true

when those vessel owners not selected will be permanently harmed by this action. In fact, many vessel owners will go out of business because potential customers will fish only with the select few.

It should be noted that in a letter submitted by 20 U.S. Congressional Representatives dated April 16, 2013 to the ranking members of key House funding subcommittees requested that no funding be provided by the SOC/NMFS for any new catch share programs. Many of these Representatives were from the Gulf Region and led by Representative Southerland of Florida District 2. In addition the Governors of the 5 Gulf States have submitted a past letter opposed to any new funding for any new catch share program. On July 23, 2012 the Bipartisan Chairs of the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus representing over 300 members of Congress sent a letter to the Chairman of the Gulf Council voicing their opposition to sector separation and catch shares in the recreational fisheries. In the Federal Register Notice sent April 2, 2013 it states that providing quota to the few selected headboat owners is essentially an IFQ but is not listed as such. It is also abundantly clear that this EFP proposal is just another attempt at separating the Recreational Fishery in the Gulf into multiple sectors and to provide catch shares (IFQs) to a select few. We already know that in the Gulf commercial red snapper and grouper fisheries that catch shares (IFQs) has created a select few of wealthy owners who in many cases simply lease out quota to poor commercial fishermen, much like farming and tobacco share croppers of years ago.

We respectfully submit that the EFP will do extensive harm to the recreational For-Hire fisheries in the Gulf and should be denied. We also submit that the EFP does not comply with the MSA Section 301 National Standards 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10. The SOC/NMFS should be aware and definitely should know that there is a significant difference in commercial fisheries and recreational For-Hire fisheries. That difference is simple; commercial fishermen compete for fish, recreational For-Hire vessel owners compete for customers, not fish. The proposed EFP will forever alter the recreational For-Hire fishery by creating an elite select few vessel owners who will greatly benefit financially over the rest of the fleet.

Sincerely,

Capt. Bob Zales, II
President

Cc: file

From: [John](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: HEADBOAT IFQ
Date: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 8:09:57 PM

As an avid recreational fisherman who has a sincere interest in NOAA/NMFS getting the GoM Red Snapper fishery issue 'right', I STRONGLY OPPOSE IFQ for HEADBOATS !!! Rules, Regs, Seasons & Limits should apply to all Rec. fisherman equally...

John Laubenthal MD'

██████, I. ██████████

██████, FL. 32408

From: [REDACTED]
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Proposed Gulf of Mexico Exempted Fishing Permit
Date: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 11:18:31 PM

MISS KELLEY FISHING CHARTERS

Capt. Benji Kelley

[REDACTED], [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FI 32405

May 1, 2013

Steve Branstetter
SERO NMFS
263 13th. Ave. South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Re: Proposed Gulf Of Mexico Exempted Fishing Permit

As a lifetime charter boat captain in the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper fishery I am writing this letter to oppose the EFP voted on at the April 2013 council meeting and wish to add comments as per the April Council verbatim minutes.

I oppose the EFP for one main reason. You give a clear competitive advantage to 8 owners of 13 selected head boats. How can you have a marina full of boats and allow one boat to catch red snapper while the rest of the fleet is not able too. This is clear move of Dr. Crabtree to push the catch share agenda down our throats and make selected people rich in the red snapper fishery just like NMFS did in the commercial sector. This whole program is anti-democratic and anti-free enterprise. This issue should be tabled.

Sincerely,

Capt. Benji Kelley
MV Miss Kelley

From: [Capt. Mike Graef](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: Proposed Gulf of Mexico Exempted Fishing Permit
Date: Thursday, May 02, 2013 6:02:48 AM

Dear Mr. Branstetter:

It is extremely clear that Dr. Crabtree and the NMFS have pushed for and created catch share programs that provide economic advantages to a hand full of fishermen at the expense of the majority of the fishing fleets. This Gulf Headboat EFP request is nothing more than a social and economic experiment that will prove that the 8 owners of the 13 selected headboats will be the premiere recreational For-Hire fishing operations in the Gulf and the other 57 headboats, 1300 federally permitted charter boats (I happen to be one), and over 2500 state licensed charter boats will lose substantial business and many will go out of business. Anytime you have a privileged recreational For-Hire fishing vessel docked rail to rail with other non-privileged recreational For-Hire fishing vessels, customers will select the vessel where they can harvest fish rather than ones where they cannot. We do not need a 2 year experiment to prove this. We have already seen the increase in state licensed vessels since they routinely are able to fish state waters when the EEZ is closed.

The sponsor is the Charter Fishermen's Association, an Environmental Defense Fund funded recreational For-Hire fishing association recently formed to propose and advance catch shares and sector separation in the Gulf of Mexico as well as other regions. The EDF economist Daniel Willard has recently submitted requests to many economists to sign on to a letter he provided supporting this EFP. It is clear in his letter that this EFP has nothing to do with gathering needed data on the fishery resources but is an attempt to show the economic gain the select 8 owners will receive and the competitive advantage they will gain over their competitors over the next 2 years. Fortunately, many of those economist contacted have refused to sign on because they understand the harm that will be done to the vessel owners not selected as well as other recreational For-Hire fishing vessel owners located in the same docking facility. An EFP should be used to gather data on the fishery resources, not for economic research.

I respectfully submit that the EFP will do extensive harm to the recreational For-Hire fisheries in the Gulf and should be denied! I also submit that the EFP does not comply with the MSA Section 301 National Standards 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10. The SOC/NMFS should be aware and definitely should know that there is a significant difference in commercial fisheries and recreational For-Hire fisheries. That difference is simple; commercial fishermen compete for fish, recreational For-Hire vessel owners compete for customers, not fish. The proposed EFP will forever alter the recreational For-Hire fishery by creating an elite select few vessel owners who will greatly benefit financially over the rest of the fleet.

Thank You,

Capt. Mike Graef

██████████ (██████████)

██████████, FL

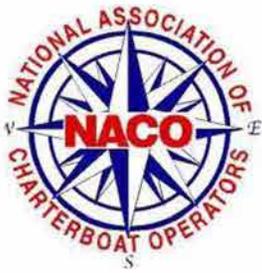
██████████

From: [tom becker](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: NACO response to GOM exempted fishing permit
Date: Thursday, May 02, 2013 8:26:27 AM
Attachments: [naco_efp_oppose 5-1-13-signed.pdf](#)

Mr. Branstetter,

Here is NACO's reply to the proposed GOM Exempted Fishing Permit.

Thank you
Capt. Tom Becker,
President, NACO



National Association of Charterboat Operators

P.O. Box 2990 Orange Beach, AL 36561
Phone (251-981-5136) Fax (251-981-8191)
E-Mail: info@nacocharters.org Web: www.nacocharters.org

Bobbi M. Walker
Executive Director
Thomas J. Becker
Mississippi Charter Boat Captains
President
Ed O'Brien
Maryland Charter Boat Association
First vice-president
Bob Rush
United Boatmen of New Jersey
Second vice-president
Gary Krein
Charterboat Assoc. of Puget Sound
Secretary
Ron Maglio
Michigan City Charter Boat Assoc.
Treasurer

Member Associations:

Alaska Charter Association
Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association
Cape Cod Charter Boat Association
Captree Boatman Open & Charter Boats
Charterboat Association of Puget Sound
Chicago Sportfishing Association
Coastal Bend Guides Association
Deep Creek Charterboat Association
Destin Charterboat Association
Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc.
Florida Guides Association, Inc.
Genesee Charterboat Association, Inc.
Golden Gate Fishermen's Association
Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Assoc
Hawaii Fishing & Boating Association
Homer (AK) Charter Association
Indiana's North Coast Charter Association
Islamorada Charterboat Association
Kenosha (WI) Charter Boat Association
Maine Association of Charterboat Captains
Marathon Guides Association
Marco Island Charter Captains Assoc.
Maryland Charterboat Association
Michigan City Charter Boat Association
Mississippi Charterboat Captains Assoc.
Northeast Charterboat Captains Assoc.
Northern Neck Charter Captains
Panama City Boatmen Association
PA Lake Erie Charter Captains Association
Petersburg (AK) Charterboat Association
Port Aransas (TX) Boatmen, Inc.
Prince William Sound Charter Boat Assoc.
Seward Charterboat Association
Sitka (AK) Charter Boat Operators Assoc.
United Boatmen of New Jersey
Virginia Charter Boat Association
Waukegan Charter Boat Association
Westport Charterboat Association

May 1, 2013

Steve Branstetter
SERO NMFS
263 13th Ave. South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

By Email: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov

Re: Proposed Gulf of Mexico Exempted Fishing Permit

Dear Mr. Branstetter:

NACO is a National Association of Charter Boat owners and operators created in 1991. We represent over 3,000 members across the United States. Our membership includes marine charters who provide fishing, sailing, diving, eco-tours, and other excursion vessels that carry passengers for hire. We are the premier Association representing professional charter interests in our country. On behalf of our membership nationwide, we are opposed to the above reference and request the EFP be denied.

Our first objection is based on the Gulf Council vote by 7 for and 6 against to support this proposal when first presented to the Gulf Council at their April, 2012 meeting. While there was no roll call vote, our member representatives were in attendance and identified and counted the hands raised for voting for and against. Dr. Crabtree, RA of the NMFS Southeast Region and Representative for the Secretary of Commerce routinely abstains from votes on issues where the SOC/NMFS is a major player. This has been especially true on issues when the SOC/NMFS is viewed as party to the issue. Had Dr. Crabtree abstained the Council vote would have been 6 for 6 against with 1 abstention so the motion would have failed due to a tie vote.

It is extremely clear that Dr. Crabtree and the NMFS have pushed for and created catch share programs that provide economic advantages to a hand full of fishermen at the expense of the majority of the fishing fleets. This Gulf Headboat EFP request is nothing more than a social and economic experiment that will prove that the 8 owners of the 13 selected headboats will be the premiere recreational For-Hire fishing operations in the Gulf and the other 57 headboats, 1300 federally permitted charter boats, and over 2500 state licensed charter boats will lose substantial business and many will go out of business. Anytime you have a privileged recreational For-Hire fishing vessel docked rail to rail with other non-privileged recreational For-Hire fishing vessels, customers will select the vessel where they can harvest fish rather than ones where they cannot. We do not need a 2 year experiment to prove this. We have already seen the increase in state licensed vessels since they routinely are able to fish state waters when the EEZ is closed.

According to the minutes of the Council April, 2012 meeting, Dr. Ponwith, Director of the NOAA Southeast Science Center is quoted "Again, what I'm eager to do is see the full -- **I've seen kind of this Frankenstein patchwork** of what's being proposed." Dr. Crabtree is quoted with several comments, "I don't think there's any way to do it other

than have the vessels that choose to participate to volunteer to do it and so while that might not be perfect from a science standpoint.” He further states, “...so the people who participate in it feel like there are economic benefits to them for coming into it and so I think some of this is just going to hinge on the experience of the vessels that come out of it and that sort of thing. **That’s a concern, Doug.**” He also stated, “Now, do you want to have a couple of extra vessels in it or not, I think that could be worked out, but because this is a pilot study, it’s inherent that it’s going to just be a small subsample of the fleet to do it.”

Dr. Pam Dana, Recreational Representative from Florida commented, “One of the headboat operators, Captain Kelly Windes, noted that, based after he read the application, that he would be interested in participating with his two boats, if implemented, but he would prefer that the seven or so true headboats in town be treated equally and not have one boat at the same marina with an advantage over others.” She also stated, “We heard testimony and Pam Anderson spoke to the effect of having, and I think Mark Kelley did as well, about having a headboat next to another headboat or a charterboat and having different treatment.”

Mr. Shepherd Grimes, NOAA Counsel, commented, “Everyone is saying it’s putting them at a competitive advantage and that, to me, doesn’t necessarily seem to be the case.” While Mr. Grimes is certainly free to make this statement, he grew up in Panama City, Florida during the time when headboats and charter boats were plentiful and all docked rail to rail as they are today. He, as well as anyone involved in fisheries, should certainly be aware that when one vessel has a clear competitive advantage over another that vessel will always do more business than those less advantaged. By granting special fishing privileges with the proposed EFP to a select few headboat owners the NMFS will immediately create special competitive advantages for those owners over the rest of the fleet in the Gulf. Why would a customer pay to fish on a recreational For-Hire vessel that cannot keep species that are closed when the vessel next to it can? This is clearly not rocket science.

Who is the headboat coop? We have seen 8 names with one selected as manager. Where is this coop registered, is it a LLC, Nonprofit, For-profit, and is it incorporated or simply a group of 8 individuals who provide no legal responsibility or liability against any possible damage to the resource or other competing businesses? Who makes the decision if a vessel owner can participate or not? When BIAS is discussed, has any BIAS by any of the 8 against any other vessel owner been considered in the selection process as there are certainly some vessels owners who do not like others, for a variety of reasons. What entity or have all 8 owners provided any legal documentation of who is responsible for collecting and disseminating any data? Who will answer to the NMFS when fish are assigned and who will make the determination of how many fish each vessel receives and how are those fish accounted for? Who is responsible to remove a vessel from the EFP should a violation occur? Does the SOC/NMFS simply provide quota to any group of fishermen based on an EFP request while taking that quota from other fishermen who have historically fished that quota?

The sponsor is the Charter Fishermen’s Association, an Environmental Defense Fund funded recreational For-Hire fishing association recently formed to propose and advance catch shares and sector separation in the Gulf of Mexico as well as other regions. The EDF economist Daniel Willard has recently submitted requests to many economists to sign on to a letter he provided supporting this EFP. It is clear in his letter that this EFP has nothing to do with gathering needed data on the fishery resources but is an attempt to show the economic gain the select 8 owners will receive and the competitive advantage they will gain over their competitors over the next 2 years. Fortunately, many of those economist contacted have refused to sign on because they understand the harm that will be done to the vessel owners not selected as well as other recreational For-Hire fishing vessel owners located in the same docking facility. An EFP should be used to gather data on the fishery resources, not for economic research. This is especially true when those vessel owners not selected will be permanently harmed by this action. In fact, many vessel owners will go out of business because potential customers will fish only with the select few.

It should be noted that in a letter submitted by 20 U.S. Congressional Representatives dated April 16, 2013 to the ranking members of key House funding subcommittees requested that no funding be provided by the SOC/NMFS for any new catch share programs. Many of these Representatives were from the Gulf Region and led by Representative Southerland of Florida District 2. In addition the Governors of the 5 Gulf States have submitted a past letter opposed to any new funding for any new catch share program. On July 23, 2012 the Bipartisan Chairs of the Congressional Sportsman’s Caucus representing over 300 members of Congress sent a letter to the Chairman of the Gulf Council voicing their opposition to sector separation and catch shares in the recreational fisheries. In the Federal Register Notice sent April 2, 2013 it states that providing quota to the few selected headboat owners is essentially an IFQ but is not listed as such. It is also abundantly clear that this EFP proposal is just another attempt at separating the Recreational Fishery in the Gulf into multiple sectors and to provide catch shares (IFQs) to a select few. We already know that in the Gulf commercial red snapper and grouper fisheries that catch shares (IFQs) has created a select few of wealthy owners who in many cases simply lease out quota to poor commercial fishermen, much like farming and tobacco share croppers of years ago.

We respectfully submit that the EFP will do extensive harm to the recreational For-Hire fisheries in the Gulf and should be denied. We also submit that the EFP does not comply with the MSA Section 301 National Standards 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10. The SOC/NMFS should be aware and definitely should know that there is a significant difference in commercial fisheries and recreational For-Hire fisheries. That difference is simple; commercial fishermen compete for fish, recreational For-Hire vessel owners compete for customers, not fish. The proposed EFP will forever alter the recreational For-Hire fishery by creating an elite select few vessel owners who will benefit greatly financially over the rest of the fleet.

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Becker
Thomas J. Becker
President

Cc:file

From: [Bob Zales 2](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: headboat ifq
Date: Thursday, May 02, 2013 9:26:48 AM
Attachments: [my_eip_comments_5-2-13.pdf](#)

The attached are submitted as my personal comments.

Capt. Bob Zales, II

██████████
██████████
██████████

"Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom."
Thomas Jefferson

May 1, 2013

Steve Branstetter
SERO NMFS
263 13th Ave. South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

By Email: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov

Re: Proposed Gulf of Mexico Exempted Fishing Permit

Dear Mr. Branstetter:

I wish to provide the following comments regarding the above. I fully support the comments sent from the Panama City Boatmen Association and add these.

As has been stated in several comments you have received, the proposed EFP will only serve to create an elite small group of recreational For-Hire owners as they will dominate the competition due to the fact they will be able to fish for species when I and others cannot. I and others are in direct competition with 7 headboats as we offer walk on trips in addition to our regular charters. Since the select few will be able to fish their own unknown IFQ, and I use IFQ since the fed reg notice stated to list such in the subject line, and fish anytime they wish I and others will be sitting at the dock when seasons are closed and we have to comply with current regs.

As has been stated, it is not rocket science to know, or prove, that by allowing a few to fish their own IFQ anytime that they will dominate the market. Recreational For-Hire vessels compete for customers, not fish. If I don't have customers it makes no difference what species is available. The proposed 2 year experiment to place the select few ahead of the completion clearly benefits them economically and is contrary to MSA National standards to treat all fishers fairly.

The EFP will provide no benefit or anything currently not known about the resources. You don't need to create an elite group of recreational For-Hire fishermen in order to show that electronic logbooks would be helpful in data collection. As has been stated by the data experts for years, unless a logbook system is complied to 100%, meaning not just providing the logs but verification of the harvest and discard data for each log submitted, such a system will not provide any better data than is collected currently. Several pilot studies and much research have already been done to show this.

I really have to question the issue about who, what, when and where this coop has been established and who bears the ultimate legal and liable responsibility should any harm to the resource or competitors results from this economic experiment. Who will be responsible for issuing the IFQs and keeping track of same? What portion of the recreational quota will be given to the select few and why is the year 2011 the year used? Who selected the year, the 8 coop members? What scientific basis was used to establish that year over others?

As you see here and have received from others there are a multitude of issues that need to be addressed before any EFP should be granted to the select few. This is nothing more than the continued effort by the NMFS to implement catch shares and sector separation to the recreational fishery in the Gulf. This EFP should be denied.

Thanks,

Capt. Bob Zales, II

Cc:file

From: [REDACTED]
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: opposed to head boat IFQ
Date: Thursday, May 02, 2013 12:19:17 PM

I am opposed to the pilot program for head boat IFQ's. It is my feeling this is a method for the National Marine Fisheries Service to pursue their agenda of sector separation and IFQ's on the for hire sector of the recreation fisheries. This program will place a high disadvantage for any for hire vessels that are competing for customers to enjoy everyone's natural resources. This program is no more than an attempt by NOAA and EDF to reduce the for hire sector participation as a way of living for those with federal reef fish permit. This is not a method of fisheries management it is a method of eliminating people participating in this fisheries. NOAA's money has been cut and directed not to pursue catch shares in any fishery but yet they continue to pursue it. The data collected from this pilot program will virtually have no impact on fishery management. This program is only beneficial for a few while the rest stand on the side lines and watch. It is dishearting to me that NOAA can implement plans like this and can't even get a current stock assessment in a timely manner to use in their management formula. We are dealing with a lag of at least six years in fish stock assessments. We can not overcome this hurdle until NOAA does their job managing fish instead of people and business that depend upon it. This avenue of approach by NOAA will not do anything for the economy, job creation, tax revenues and most of all the pursuit of enjoyment of harvesting fish for fun or for food.

I've been in business for 38 years and it is getting harder and harder to make ends meet with NOAA changing the game rules in an untimely manner.

It appears that government is a money eating machine that has an appetite that cannot be satisfied.

Capt Hank Hunt
[REDACTED], FL

From: [Ted Venker](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Cc: Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Thursday, May 02, 2013 2:09:48 PM
Attachments: [CCA - Headboat IFQ comments.pdf](#)
[Attachment 1 - Governors Letter.pdf](#)
[Attachment 2 - CSC letter.pdf](#)
[Attachment 3 - FY14 Catch Shares.pdf](#)

Please find attached comments from Coastal Conservation Association on the proposed headboat IFQ, as well as the materials referenced in our comments.

Thank you.

Regards,

Ted Venker
Conservation Director
TIDE Magazine Editor
www.JoinCCA.org
www.facebook.com/CCANational



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May 2, 2013

Dr. Steve Branstetter
NOAA Fisheries
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Ref: Exempted fishing permit (EFP), Gulf Headboat Cooperative - RIN 0648-XC528

Dear Dr. Branstetter:

On behalf of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) and our 75,000 members in the Gulf of Mexico states, this letter conveys our unequivocal opposition to the proposed Exempted Fishing Permit (RIN 0648-XC528) that would allow a pre-selected subset of less than a dozen Gulf headboat operators to be gifted recreational quota to use for their individual harvest of red snapper and grouper for two years. Touted as an experiment to provide accurate and timely landings data, we believe that the primary goal of this EFP is to pave the way for allowing separate allocations of common property resources to the for-hire and private boat recreational fishing sectors and the ultimate creation of a catch shares program in the recreational sector. The application for this EFP has been careful to avoid the use of the terms "catch share" or "sector separation," but it is clear that it tests a catch share that would depend on sector separation.

This EFP simply will not produce conservation gains nor will it enhance efficiency. Any "academic study" designed to quantify the stated goals of this EFP would be seriously affected by the non-random selection of the subject vessels. There is no evidence that the decline in for-hire reef fish permits in the Gulf has affected any of the operators who are applying for this EFP as the decline cited in their application has affected primarily the smaller charter vessels. There is also no history of project management and oversight by the "Headboat Cooperative" that would provide the agency with the

standard assurances that the conditions and requirements of the EFP could, in fact, be achieved.

The most that this EFP will show is that a small number of vessels, when granted the right to fish when it is illegal for everyone else to fish, will be more profitable. That conclusion needs no test. Artificially controlling supply in the face of pent-up demand will increase prices, pure and simple. This application fails to make any case for why the government should allow an EFP to be granted when it will provide no other benefit than to line the pockets of a very few headboat captains.

The applicants have stated that one of the goals of the project is conduct a comparative socio-economic study between the existing headboat industry, and the Headboat Cooperative before, during, and after the pilot project, to determine the potential economic impacts of an alternative management method on the headboat industry. This is a particularly vexing goal in that it appears that the applicants are openly shopping for increasingly skewed and biased programs and proposals to reach pre-determined conclusions. This question has already been answered for all intents and purposes, although apparently not to the applicants' satisfaction. In 2009, NOAA Fisheries funded a Bioeconomic Analysis of the Red Snapper Rebuilding Plan and Transferable Rights Policies in the Gulf of Mexico (Wade and Woodward). That study, which has been presented to the Gulf Council, revealed that the net present value of the total Gulf reef fish and shrimp fisheries over the timeframe 2009 – 2032 is estimated at \$11.8 billion dollars (Figure 1). The for-hire sector is estimated to generate 7% of this total. The private vessel recreational sector accounts for 77% of this value and yet it is currently being virtually shut out of the fishery through proposals such as this EFP. If NOAA Fisheries wished to generate real economic value for the benefit of all the people of this nation, it can accomplish that goal by actively seeking reallocation of red snapper to the recreational sector. Our national interests are not well served by granting exclusive access to common property resources to an extremely small group of headboat operators seeking to increase their profitability.

Another of the stated goals of the EFP is to test a new electronic data collection method and evaluate its effectiveness in providing accurate, next to real-time catch and effort data. The headboats have been part of a NOAA Fisheries data collection census that has required reporting of catches via traditional logbooks for well over two decades. The accuracy of the data being reported will not be improved by "real-time" reporting. If headboat operators have been accurately reporting on paper logbooks, then demonstrating that they can accurately report on electronic logbooks would provide no insight into the operations of this fishery. In this time of sequestration we question the wisdom of utilizing resources to collect such real-time data when such data would not be used for real-time management purposes. We also note that a

Dr. Steve Branstetter

May 2, 2013

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recently completed study of electronic reporting by charter vessels in the Gulf had high levels of non-compliance and failure to finish the program.

Not only is this EFP flawed from a purely technical perspective, it is difficult to comprehend that such a program would be given serious consideration given the very high levels of political and popular opposition to sector separation and catch shares. It is even more difficult to comprehend that such an effort to take quota away from recreational anglers would be made in the face of the shortest recreational red snapper season ever. Recreational anglers and the majority of for-hire captains are not the only ones against these concepts. In 2009, a letter (Attachment 1) signed by four Gulf state governors, Gov. Rick Perry of Texas, Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi and Gov. Bob Riley of Alabama, was sent to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke in opposition to catch share programs, stating that:

“Access and opportunity are the lifeblood of recreational fishing. Catch shares limit accessibility for those who do not have an opportunity to participate. While this does not create a problem when the resource is targeted exclusively by one segment, such as commercial fishers, it squeezes out other users when applied to a mixed-use fishery. We would like to be able to give assurances to our constituents that NOAA will not attempt to extend catch shares policies to the recreational fishing sector.”

In 2012, a letter (Attachment 2) from the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus, one of the largest caucuses in the U.S. Congress with more than 300 members, was sent to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. That letter, signed by Rep. Jeff Miller of Florida and Rep. Mike Ross of Arkansas, stated:

“As leaders of the caucus, we are writing to report that continued consideration and promotion of the management concepts known as sector separation and catch shares by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council are causing concern among our members. More specifically, we have serious concerns about the current proposal to further subdivide the recreational fishing allocation by awarding charter boats with their own guaranteed allocation. “

Additionally, multiple efforts have been made to reduce or eliminate funding for catch share programs. Most recently, 20 U.S. Congressmen sent a letter (Attachment 3) to the House Appropriations Committee on asking that no new catch shares, or catch share research, be funded. The letter states:

“The House made its position on this issue clear twice already, most recently when it approved the Southerland-Grimm Amendment to the

Dr. Steve Branstetter
May 2, 2013
Page 4

FY2013 CJS Appropriations Act by a bipartisan vote of 220-191 (Roll Call Vote #223). This amendment prohibited funding in the bill from being used for the implementation of new catch share programs in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Coast regions. Congress has an obligation to hear the concerns of our fishermen before new catch share programs are implemented."

For all the reasons stated above, we urge NOAA Fisheries to deny this EFP application. We encourage the agency to instead move forward towards rationalization of the allocations in this fishery and deliver real increases in jobs and economic benefits potentially available from this reef fish complex to the American public who are the true collective owners of this common property resource.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views on this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Brewer', written in a cursive style.

Chester Brewer, Chairman
CCA National Government Relations Committee



October 22, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Locke:

As governors of Gulf Coast states, we are concerned at the direction and rapidity in which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is moving to implement "catch shares" programs for fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our concerns center on the potential negative impacts catch shares programs could have on our states' economies, as well as how such programs could restrict citizens' access to the fisheries resources that should be shared by all.

While much emphasis is placed on the beneficial economic impact of commercial fishing, it is important to keep in mind that recreational fishing generates some \$24 billion to the economies of the Gulf States.

We understand that catch shares systems for resource management can be effective when applied to purely commercial fisheries. However, we are concerned about the impact catch shares could have when also applied to recreational fishers. The fisheries being discussed in the Gulf of Mexico are managed jointly by the relevant coastal states and the federal government. As such, the states and our citizens are partners in the stewardship of these resources and the benefits of their use. Each of our states enjoys the benefit of productive fishery resources, which generate significant recreation and seafood revenues for our citizens. A healthy marine resource is vital to the local economies of our coastal communities and is a significant contributor to the overall economy of each of our states.

We have already seen negative impacts from the Gulf red snapper catch share system and are concerned about negative impact from the pending program for Gulf grouper. Creating an exclusive harvesting right for a small group of commercial fishermen inherently marginalizes other users who do not have the same access privileges. Those other users, recreational fishermen and commercial fishermen without access rights, would be excluded. In purely commercial fisheries this effect can have both economic and management benefits. But when applied in mixed-use fisheries, recreational anglers are forced to focus their efforts in limited state waters or not participate in the fishery at all. Neither of these outcomes is desirable.

Access and opportunity are the lifeblood of recreational fishing. Catch shares limit accessibility for those who do not have an opportunity to participate. While this does not create a problem when the resource is targeted exclusively by one segment, such as commercial fishers, it squeezes out other users when applied to a mixed-use fishery. We would like to be able to give assurances to our constituents that NOAA will not attempt to extend catch shares policies to the recreational fishing sector.

It is also important to point out that each of our states has had great successes in the management of recreational fisheries, and have never required limiting public access to the resource through exclusive rights. In almost every case, the resource has enjoyed great recovery while recreational fishing opportunities have actually been expanded.

We are concerned that in the desire to adopt and implement catch share systems NOAA has forgotten its most fundamental responsibility under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act—to maximize the net economic value from the use of a public resource. Recreational fishing is an important activity in all of our states, and one that we would like to see continue to grow as a healthy activity for the public. However, we are concerned that NOAA policies could frustrate our ability to do that.

We are confident that you, as a former Governor, understand our perspective. We request that you allow each of the Gulf States to be able to protect its citizens' access to public fishery resources by allowing us to serve a key role in the decision process as to which fisheries will have a catch share program, how those programs would be structured, in determining the length of the subsidies in the program to the commercial fishery and assuring proper allocation of the resource in advance of implementing any catch share program.

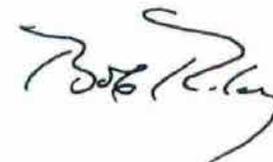
We look forward to working with you to find a system that will balance your goals for catch share systems with the needs of our citizens.

Sincerely,


Governor Rick Perry
State of Texas


Governor Bobby Jindal
State of Louisiana


Governor Haley Barbour
State of Mississippi


Governor Bob Riley
State of Alabama

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 25, 2012

Doug Boyd, Vice Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607 USA

Dear Mr. Boyd:

The Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) is one of the largest and most effective caucuses in the U.S. Congress with over 300 members representing nearly all 50 states. With bipartisan leadership in both the House and the Senate, the Caucus promotes and protects the rights of anglers, hunters, shooters and trappers. As leaders of the Caucus, we are writing to report that continued consideration and promotion of the management concepts known as sector separation and catch shares by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council are causing concern among our members. More specifically, we have serious concerns about the current proposal to further subdivide the recreational fishing allocation by awarding the charter boats with their own guaranteed allocation.

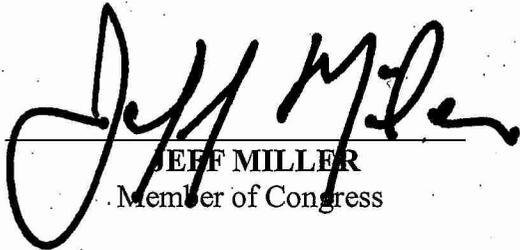
At the root of those concerns is the fact that this specific proposal and the entire concept of catch shares between the recreational and commercial sectors is out of sequence. To further engage in the aforementioned proposal and the concept of catch shares, there needs to be a realistic assessment of the allocation issues for mixed sector fisheries. In order to better understand the issue, we need to accumulate and examine a compilation of enhanced scientific data, additional economic evaluations, and take a closer look at changing demographics and then reassess how mixed sector fisheries would best be reallocated. Without these prerequisites, any discussion of further sector separation or catch shares in mixed sector fisheries is premature.

Even if such reallocation issues were analyzed and modified, taking a portion of the allocation from the recreational sector for the proposed charter boat sector has the potential to decrease the funding available for state fisheries management. The members of the Caucus are well acquainted with the successes of state-based conservation, which is almost entirely guided and funded by sportsmen and the money they spend on fishing and hunting. The sportsmen's ethic of stewardship is at the heart of the American System of Conservation Funding and is built, in part, on the foundation of individual anglers' recreational fishing activities.

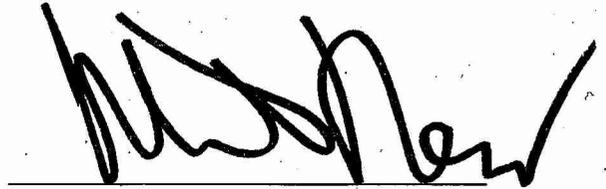
Despite strong opposition from most charter boat owners and recreational fishermen alike, the implementation of a charter boat sector from the recreational fishing allocation and catch shares in general - prior to the collection and analysis of the data necessary to determine the appropriateness of such measures - continues to be promoted. As a voice for recreational

fishermen and conservation efforts throughout the country, the CSC urges the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to consider the far-reaching implications of its actions and refrain from instituting the practices of additional sector separation and catch shares in the Gulf of Mexico until further scientific, economic, and demographic assessments have taken place.

Sincerely,



JEFF MILLER
Member of Congress



MIKE ROSS
Member of Congress

cc: Mr. Eric Schwaab, Acting Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Management
Dr. Roy Crabtree, Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries Service
Russell Dunn, NOAA Fisheries National Policy Advisor

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2013

Chairman Harold Rogers
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Nita Lowey
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Frank R. Wolf
House Subcommittee on Commerce
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
H-309, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Chaka Fattah
House Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
H-309, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Wolf, and Ranking Member Fattah:

We are writing to request that no funding be included in the FY2014 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill for the development, approval, or implementation of **new** limited access privilege programs – also known as “catch shares” – for fisheries under the jurisdiction of the New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, or Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils.

As you know, the House Committee on Natural Resources – which has legislative oversight of catch share programs – is currently working to reauthorize the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the law that governs America’s marine fisheries. We believe that the concerns of our local fishermen, both commercial and recreational, are best addressed by allowing the committee to complete its reauthorization before funding for any **new** catch share programs is considered.

The House made its position on this issue clear twice already, most recently when it approved the Southerland-Grimm Amendment to the FY2013 CJS Appropriations Act by a bipartisan vote of 220-191 (Roll Call Vote #223). This amendment prohibited funding in the bill from being used for the implementation of **new** catch share programs in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Coast regions.

Congress has an obligation to hear the concerns of our fishermen before **new** catch share programs are implemented. Jobs numbers indicate that commercial sector fishing jobs are reduced in fisheries that implement catch share programs. For Atlantic and Gulf Coast

fishermen already struggling through difficult economic challenges, any additional job losses could be devastating to the industry. Further economic injury can be avoided, however, by prohibiting the development and implementation of new catch share programs until we ensure the development of better scientific research, stock assessments, recreational surveys, as well as economic impact statements from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). All of these tools are necessary to accurately measure the need for – and true impact of – new catch share programs on our fisheries and coastal communities.

Many of our commercial and recreational fishermen believe they did not have the opportunity to make their voices heard before the implementation of new catch shares in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Now, however, we have opportunity to ensure the concerns of our fishermen are heard, and that can only happen by allowing the House Committee on Natural Resources to complete its reauthorization first.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

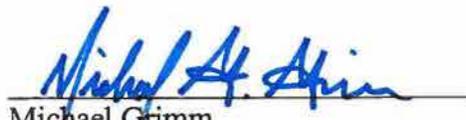
Sincerely,



Steve Southerland, II
United States Representative



John F. Tierney
United States Representative



Michael Grimm
United States Representative



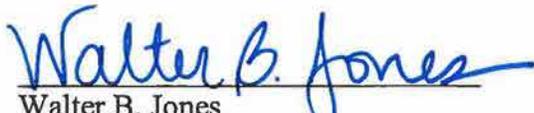
Frank Pallone
United States Representative

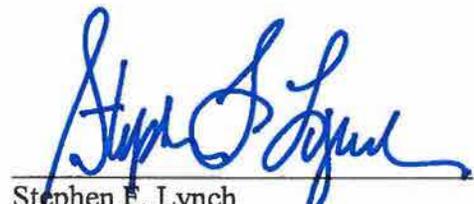


Bill Posey
United States Representative



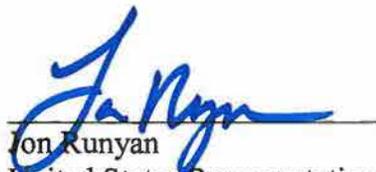
Mike McIntyre
United States Representative

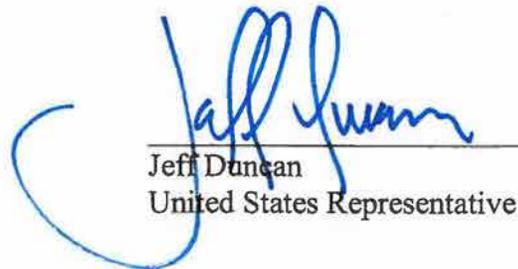

Walter B. Jones
United States Representative


Stephen F. Lynch
United States Representative


Tom Graves
United States Representative


William R. Keating
United States Representative

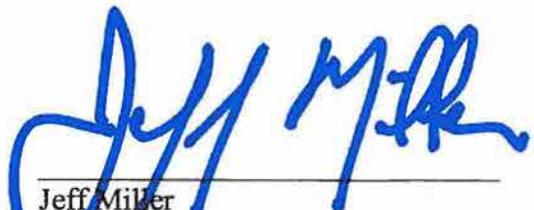

Jon Runyan
United States Representative


Jeff Duncan
United States Representative


Gus M. Bilirakis
United States Representative

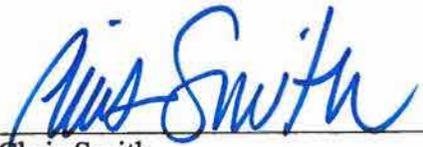

Austin Scott
United States Representative


Frank LoBiondo
United States Representative

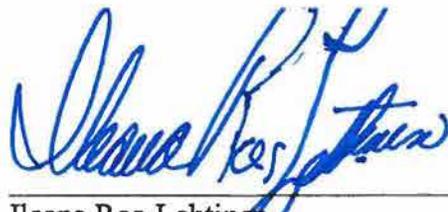

Jeff Miller
United States Representative


Steve Scalise
United States Representative


Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D.
United States Representative



Chris Smith
United States Representative



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
United States Representative

From: [Dennis O'Hern](#)
To: 0648-XC528.Headboat.IFQ.EFP@noaa.gov
Subject: EADBOAT.IFQ.EFPH
Date: Thursday, May 02, 2013 4:59:47 PM

Steve and other decision makers,

The Fishing Rights Alliance is composed of primarily recreational anglers in all US Coastal States. We represent the interests of the angler in the fisheries management process.

We are submitting these comments on the application for an Exempted Fishing Permit for a headboat catch shares program. We are uniformly offended that such an application is even being considered, given the unanimous angler outcry against the Days At Sea program. Not a single recreational angler authorized the re-assignment of recreational quota to a few private boat owners.

We ask, who is the headboat coop? We have seen 8 names with one selected as manager. Where is this coop registered, is it a LLC, Nonprofit, For-profit, and is it incorporated or simply a group of 8 individuals who provide no legal responsibility or liability against any possible damage to the resource or other competing businesses? Who decides if a vessel owner can participate or not? When discussing bias, has any bias by any of the 8 against any other vessel owner been considered? What entity is responsible for collecting and disseminating any data? Who will answer to the NMFS when fish are assigned and who will make the determination of how many fish each vessel receives and how are those fish accounted for? Who is responsible to remove a vessel from the EFP should a violation occur? Does the SOC/NMFS simply provide quota to any group of fishermen based on an EFP request while taking that quota from other fishermen who have historically fished that quota?

The sponsor is the Charter Fishermen's Association, an Environmental Defense Fund funded recreational For-Hire fishing association recently formed to propose and advance catch shares and sector separation in the Gulf of Mexico as well as other regions.

It should be noted that in a letter submitted by 20 U.S. Congressional Representatives dated April 16, 2013 to the ranking members of key House funding subcommittees requested that no funding be provided by the SOC/NMFS for any new catch share programs. Many of these Representatives were from the Gulf Region and led by Representative Southerland of Florida District 2. In addition the Governors of the 5 Gulf States have submitted a past letter opposed to any new funding for any new catch share program. On July 23, 2012 the Bipartisan Chairs of the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus representing over 300 members of Congress sent a letter to the Chairman of the Gulf Council voicing their opposition to sector separation and catch shares in the recreational fisheries. In the Federal Register Notice sent April 2, 2013 it states that providing quota to the few selected headboat owners is essentially an IFQ but is not listed as such. It is also abundantly clear that this EFP proposal is just another attempt at separating the Recreational Fishery in the Gulf into multiple sectors and to provide catch shares (IFQs) to a select few. We already know that in the Gulf commercial red snapper and grouper fisheries that catch shares (IFQs) has created a select few of wealthy owners who in many cases simply lease out quota to poor commercial fishermen, much like farming and tobacco share croppers of years ago.

We respectfully submit that the EFP will do extensive harm to the recreational For-Hire fisheries in the Gulf and should be denied. We also submit that the EFP does not comply with the MSA Section 301 National Standards 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10. The SOC/NMFS should be aware and definitely should know that there is a significant difference in commercial fisheries and recreational For-Hire fisheries. That difference is simple; commercial fishermen compete for fish, recreational For-Hire vessel owners compete for customers, not fish. The proposed EFP will forever alter the recreational For-Hire fishery by creating an elite select few vessel owners who will benefit greatly financially over the rest of the fleet.

This EFP has no biological scientific value. It is a remainder of a failed catch share scheme..The FRA is staunchly opposed to this apparently illegal usurpation of our recreational resource.

Congress, Governors, state Marine Fisheries Agencies and 100% of angler groups oppose this unfair and

inequitable privatization of our marine resource for the benefit of the select few. We ask to what purpose does Dr. Crabtree, an administrator, continue to push this notion forward in the face of all opposition and defiance of his employers?.

Having no scientific, biological or social value and unanimously opposed by anglers, States and Congress, the logical person is left to wonder why this would even be going forward. The Days At Sea program that this EFP supports is not longer moving forward. We submit that there is absolutely no valid reason for the EFP application to be approved.

Further, we specifically request that this application be denied. Should it be granted, the FRA will surely review and pursue available legal options.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Dennis O'Hern

President

Fishing Rights Alliance

4604 49th Street North

Suite 34

St. Petersburg, FL 33709

From: [Brian Wyatt](#)
To: [The EFP Comments](#)
Subject: Headboat IFQ
Date: Thursday, May 02, 2013 8:50:37 PM

Dear The Comments,

I am a Tax Paying Law abiding Angler and Request that ALL Policies that have anything to do with Pilot programs Allowing a "few" select Charter Boats access to OUR resources should be against the Law. Catch Shares should be COMPLETELY ABOLISHED. STOP this Nonsense called Catch Shares.

Sincerely,

Brian W.

████████████████████

██████████, TX 78163

From: [Steve Branstetter - NOAA Federal](#)
To: [0648-XC528 Headboat.IFT.EFP - NOAA Service Account](#)
Subject: Fwd: Headboat IFQ
Date: Friday, May 03, 2013 6:33:11 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Eric Van Gorder** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Wed, May 1, 2013 at 1:40 PM
Subject: Headboat IFQ
To: "Mr. Steve Branstetter" <Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov>

Dear Mr. Branstetter,

Please become more educated with the rights of private anglers and the fact they manage their local waters better than a Federal group absent of local knowledge. Head boat management is a poor choice taking the rights of many to promote business for profit for few.

Sincerely,

Eric Van Gorder

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], FL 34420

--
Steve Branstetter, Ph.D., Gulf Branch Chief
NMFS, SERO
263 13th Ave. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727-551-5796