Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

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April 23, 2014

Dr. Roy Crabtree
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

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Dear Dr. Crabtree,

During its April 2014 meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council reviewed an exempted fishing permit application submitted by the Alabama Charter Fishing Association Cooperative (ACFAC). The ACFAC intends to evaluate the feasibility of a cooperative management strategy for the charter for-hire sector during the 2015 and 2016 calendar years through a cooperative pilot red snapper fishing quota program.

The pilot program will evaluate whether a cooperative program can achieve conservation and economic goals more effectively than the existing management system, and will evaluate the effectiveness of a new electronic data collection system to provide accurate, near real-time catch and effort data. The participants are expected to be all active Alabama licensed charter for-hire vessels with a federal charter boat/headboat reef fish permit (approximately 63 six-pack vessels and 26 multi-passenger vessels). The Council recommends that National Marine Fisheries Service approve the ACFAC Exempted Fishing Permit.

Should you need additional information, please contact the Council office.

Sincerely,

Carrie M. Simmons for:

Douglas Boyd
Council Chairman

SMA

cc: Gulf Council
technical staff

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