

October 20, 2008

Mr. Glenn Martin, Chairman
Recreational Red Snapper Advisory Panel
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
3018 U.S. Highway 301 North
Suite 1000
Tampa, FL 33610-2266

RE: A new direction for the for-hire red snapper sector

Dear Mr. Martin:

Increasing numbers of fishermen in the for-hire sector have concluded that we can no longer stand by and watch our access to the recreational red snapper fishery collapse, and with it, the years of investment each and every one of us has poured into our industry. A history of a decreasing TAC and increasingly confounding regulations now, coupled with the drastic downturn in the economy, means we struggle daily just to keep our small businesses afloat. According to our politicians and community leaders, these small businesses are the engine of the national economy and are a key economic component in our coastal communities.

In order for our for-hire businesses to survive, we need a new management philosophy which allows us to better serve our customers, count the fish we catch, and build equity in our businesses. At the same time, we want to conserve and continue to grow the stock biomass. The first step towards this goal is to request the AP recommend to the Gulf Council options which will allow the for-hire sector to be identified as its own sector and allocated a share of the recreational quota. While we fall under the "recreational sector" umbrella for fisheries management purposes, we approach fishing from a unique perspective. We are professional fishermen and we would like the opportunity to implement regulations that give us the ability to stabilize and run profitable businesses.

We feel the immediate implementation of regulations calling for sector separation and the implementation of a vessel monitoring system and electronic logbooks will allow for accountability and responsibility in our sector. The data that these tools can provide will give fisheries biologists an unprecedented and entirely new data set: very specific scientific information (likely real-time) that can be used to make timely and accurate management decisions.

This is not the time for political posturing and lengthy discussions, even more regulations, and another year of struggling to fish for less. We don't want handouts. We want to save the red snapper fishery in a cooperative management environment which will also re-energize our small business in this sour economy. The time for action is now.

Sincerely,
Signature

Print Name

Vessel/Home Port

CAPT Gary Jarvis

GARY JARVIS

BACK DOWN 2 / DESTIN

	SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	VESSEL / PORT
CAPT.		Joseph Eric Thrasher	DayBreak, Destin, FL ✓
CAPT.		Kay Biggers	Destin Fisherman's Co-op, Mary ✓
CAPT.		Kirk Reynolds	SS Enterprise, Destin FL ✓
CAPT.		Brad Biggers	FREE LANCE CHARTER CAPTAIN EMALY, EE © DESTIN FISHERMAN'S COOP. DESTIN FL ✓
CAPT.		Chris White	PERFECT SHOT ✓
CAPT.		DENNIS KENRACK SCAMP	DESTIN FL ✓
		KATIE THRASHER	DESTIN FISHERMAN'S CO-OP ✓
		Capt. M.D.	LADY EM Destin FL ✓
CAPT.		John S. Brumbe	Destiny, Party Boat, Destin FL ✓
		Lindley Staples	Destin Fisherman's Co-OP ✓
		Stan Phillips	Sea Winder / Destin, FL ✓
		Capt Greg Marler	Gentle Winds Destin FL ✓
CAPT.		Jeffrey W. Culbert	TOP GUN Destin, FL ✓
CAPT.		Harold Loeffler	Um Reel Destin, FL. ✓
		ERICA ELIASON	DESTIN FISHERMAN'S CO-OP ✓
		Jessica Boagett	Destin Fisherman's Co-OP ✓
CAPT.		KELLY WINDES	SUNRISE, DESTIN, FLA. ✓
CAPT.		Tommy Bradwin	Finest Kind Destin FL ✓
CAPT.		Chad M.B.	Destin Prince ✓
		Eric Auk	Sunrise, Destin FL. ✓
		Jon Wilson	Outta Line Destin, FL ✓
CAPT.		TREY WINDES	OUTTA LINE DESTIN, FL. ✓
		Joshua Calhoon	Blue Runner II ✓
		John Butchfield	
		Jared M Wright	Destiny ✓
		Tom Walker	"SURE THING HIRED GUN" ✓
		Dustin Road	DESTINY ✓
CAPT.		RICK HAYLES	SEASCAPE / DESTIN ✓
		Jake Sargent	Destin Princess ✓
		Franks Sedivy	seascape / Destin ✓

SIGNATURE PRINT NAME VESSEL/PORT

CAPT	<i>Mark Steelman</i>	Mark Steelman	Gulfwinds / Destin ✓
CAPT	<i>Justin Destin</i>	Justin Destin	Full Draw / Destin
CAPT	<i>Danny Timms</i>	Danny Timms	Finest Kind / Destin ✓
CAPT	<i>Tom Banachowicz</i>	Tom Banachowicz	Finest Kind / Destin
CAPT	<i>Tony Davis</i>	Tony Davis	ANASTASIA ✓
CAPT	<i>Andy Vaughn</i>	Andy Vaughn	Special K / Destin
	<i>James F. Quinn</i>	James F. Quinn	Melanie Dawn ✓
	<i>Kent P. Peterson</i>	Kent P. Peterson	Melanie Dawn
	<i>Peter A. Antosh Jr</i>	Peter A. Antosh Jr	SPECIAL / K DESTIN
	<i>Jimmy Meyers</i>	Jimmy Meyers	Phoenix / Destin ✓
	<i>Eddy Griffith</i>	Eddy Griffith	Phoenix / Destin
CAPT	<i>Casey Godwin</i>	Casey Godwin	one of A Kind Destin ✓
	<i>Adam Fletcher</i>	Adam Fletcher	one of A Kind " "
	<i>Robert M. Ward</i>	Robert M. Ward	One of A Kind
	<i>Tom Summers</i>	Tom Summers	One of a kind
	<i>Marlene Hill</i>	Marlene Hill	Just in time
	<i>Shelby Johnson</i>	Shelby Johnson	One of A Kind
	<i>Corey Johnson</i>	Corey Johnson	One of A Kind
	<i>Kylie Woods</i>	Kylie Woods	One of A Kind
	<i>Lynn Allen</i>	Lynn Allen	Justin Time
	<i>Cory James</i>	Cory James	One of A Kind / Destin
	<i>David Grubbs</i>	David Grubbs	One of A Kind / Destin
	<i>John Grubbs</i>	John Grubbs	one of A Kind / Destin ✓
	<i>Jay R. Chitwood</i>	Jay R. Chitwood	one of A Kind / Destin
	<i>Robert H. Williams</i>	Robert H. Williams	ONE OF A KIND / DESTIN
	<i>Bryan Kelley</i>	Bryan Kelley	JUSTIN TIME
CAPT	<i>Daniel P. Brennan</i>	Daniel P. Brennan	GOLF BREEZE ✓
CAPT	<i>Charlie Martin</i>	CHARLIE MARTIN	FUNATIC
	<i>Hugh Williams</i>	Hugh Williams	SEA Winder

AA Affi
Ken Black

CAPT JOSEPH GRIFFIN

Ken Blackman

BACKDOWN², Destin, FL

Back Down², Destin, FL